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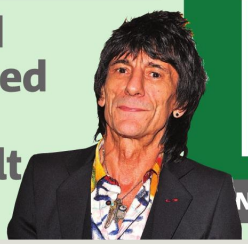
Celebrity Buzz

Wood arrested for assault

pg 31



Movies

Disney crosses colour line

pg 18

News on the Move

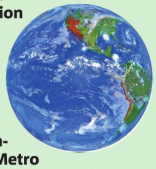
What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Music pg 28

Milman takes love easy

Go Green

With the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change beginning Monday in Copenhagen, Metro is examining some of the issues and concerns world leaders will be discussing at the event. Metro is also marking the convention by going green itself.



- **Climate change videos unveiled, page 8.**
- **Denmark prepares for summit, page 10.**
- **Why the Copenhagen summit is a big deal, page 12.**
- **As an eco-tourist you can actually make a difference for the environment, page 30.**
- **Committing to a green lifestyle, page 30.**

On the web

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PHOTO COURTESY SAM SULLIVAN

Vancouver businessman Simon Chu with his son in this undated photo supplied by former mayor Sam Sullivan. Chu has been in prison for six months in a city south of Beijing accused of contract forgery.

City man in Chinese jail: Ex-mayor

Dual citizenship not recognized

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

A Vancouver businessman whose family owns the Plaza of Nations is in a Chinese prison and was interrogated for nine days with his hands and feet cuffed to a stool to prevent him from laying down, former mayor Sam Sullivan said Thursday.

Simon Chu, a Taiwanese-Canadian businessman, has been held in a jail in Baoding, south of Beijing, for six months.

He is charged with contract forgery and prosecutors are asking for a sentence of 10 years to life.

"There are places in China, where the legal processes have evolved very much, but in the city of Baoding, this is not the case," said Sullivan, at a press conference Thursday to predominately Chinese-language media.

Sullivan, who met Chu in the early 1990s when one of his non-profit organizations was based at the Plaza of Nations, said his friend disappeared in May and it was weeks before anybody knew what had happened to him.

Apparently Chu was in Taiwan when he learned of a commercial dispute at a factory that he partly owns.

He rushed to China from Taiwan — instead of getting a visa through Hong Kong — and because of that, Sullivan said, he is not recognized as Canadian, even though he has dual citizenship.

Sullivan said Chu will not get a fair trial in Baoding.

His family and lawyer have been prevented from seeing him, and when they did meet with him, they were not allowed to discuss the case.

Chu's lawyer told Sullivan that Chu was interrogated twice, once for six days, the other time for nine days. Both times his hands and feet were cuffed to a stool or bench, making it impossible for him to lie down.

Experts hope Canada not obstacle at climate change talks

Go Green

B.C. climate change experts say they hope Canada isn't the obstacle that derails next week's climate change talks in Copenhagen.

The 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference, which runs for two weeks beginning Monday, brings together world leaders to try and ink an agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

"We hope that there is strong, international agreement that's created," said Merran Smith, climate director of ForestEthics. "And we hope that (Prime Minister) Stephen Harper isn't the laggard who stops that agreement from going forward."

Harper said last week that he would head to Denmark to attend the talks. His announcement followed similar declarations by U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Ian Bruce, a climate change specialist with the David Suzuki Foundation, said Canada needs to commit to science-based emission targets and develop an action plan to reduce greenhouse emissions.

"The prime minister said he's going to the meetings, but as of yet has nothing to offer or to show that Canada is serious about reducing global warming pollution."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Moms united

- ForestEthics has launched Moms Against Climate Change which asks people to send photos of their children that will be incorporated into a wall that they will project in Vancouver, Ottawa and Copenhagen on Wednesday.

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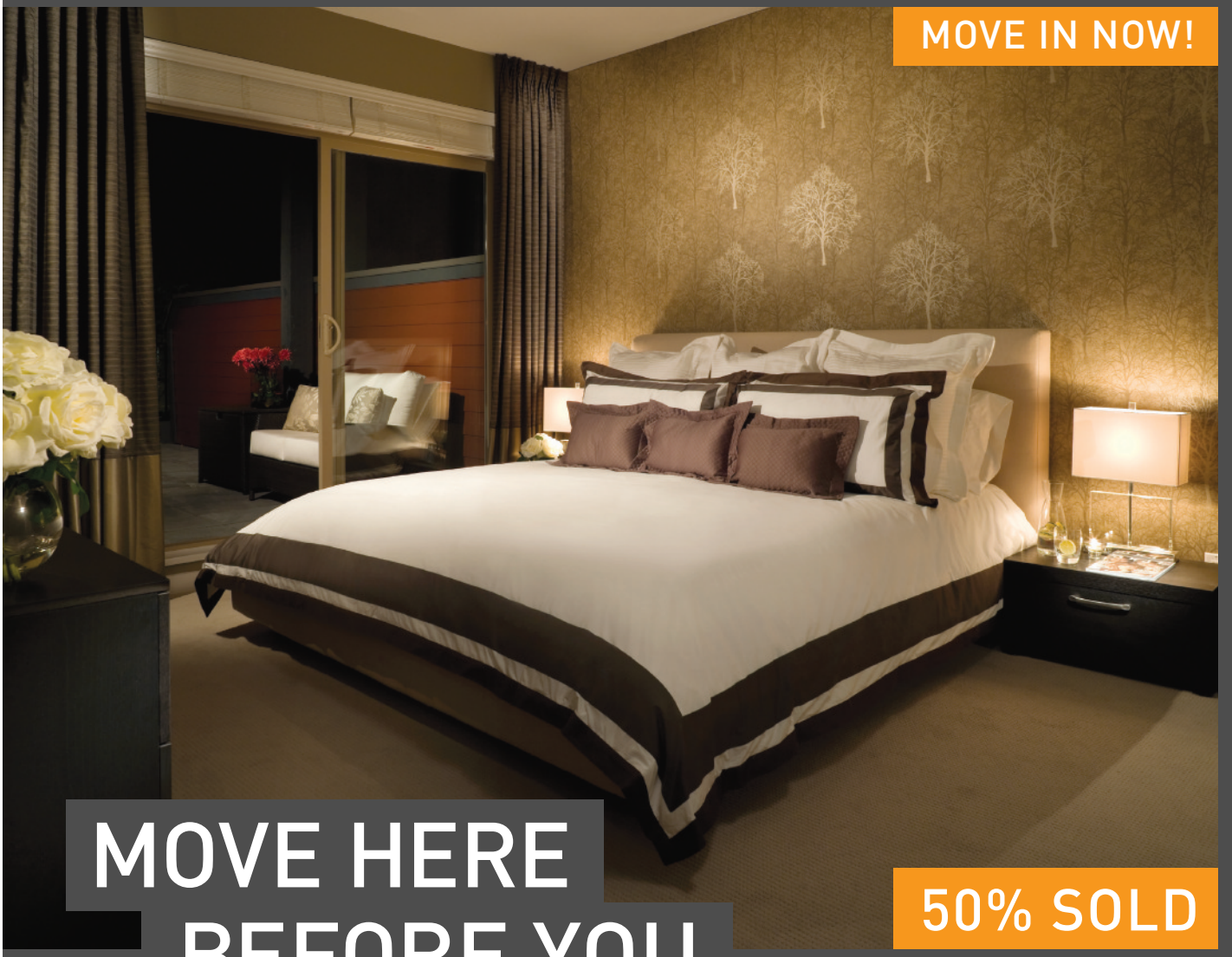

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Local

Biennale art goes up in Richmond

The first of various works of art has been installed in Richmond after the city joined the Vancouver Biennale program. Olas de Viento, Wind Waves, left, has been installed at Garry Point Park in Steveston. Other Biennale artworks to be installed include a 16-metre-tall stainless-steel depiction of freezing water and a series of large-scale matchstick chandeliers that will be handmade on site.

METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

INVESTIGATION The Transportation Safety Board says the flight controls of a single-engine float plane that crashed off Saturna Island last Sunday, killing six people, were set for a normal takeoff. Investigators expect to interview the pilot and a passenger as soon as Friday.

CHOPPER CRASH The cause of an engine failure that sent a helicopter crashing into the streets of Cranbrook in May 2008, killing four people, has not been found, the Transportation Safety Board said. Among the victims was an international student who was oblivious to the impending crash as he listened to music on his iPod on the street below.

TROOPS A banner offering best wishes to Canadian troops abroad will be on display at the Pacific Centre Sears store this weekend. It'll be sent to troops in Afghanistan for the Christmas season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blog Global Peasant helps fight winter chills with a butternut squash soup recipe
Video Stephen Harper earns a rare public chiding from China for taking too long to visit at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Tourism boost anticipated

China grants Canada 'approved destination status'

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

In a move that is expected to generate millions of tourism dollars, China granted "approved destination status" to Canada on Thursday.

Paul Vallee, executive vice-president of Tourism Vancouver, said the timing works well with the 2010 Olympics just around the corner.

"We've been waiting a few years for this announcement and now that it's here, it's going to be a nice shot in the arm," Vallee said. "It essentially puts us on a level playing field with other destinations that already have this status in place."

He estimates that by 2015, Vancouver could see as many as 300,000 tourists from China.

The change was announced in Beijing on the second day of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's first official visit to that country. It allows Chinese travel agents to market Canada as a vacation spot. It also allows Canada to market its tourism products in China.

Glynnis Chan, owner of Richmond-based Happy Times Travel, said up until now Chinese tourists had difficulties obtaining visas to Canada.

"The problem has been with tourist groups," he said, explaining that with some people being approved for visas but not others, it was tough to book hotels and buses.

WITH FILES FROM KRISTEN THOMPSON, STIG NIELSEN

2020

- By 2020, China is expected to be the world's largest outbound market, producing some 100 million outbound tourists.

m.metronews.ca

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Frustrated HandyDart riders urge TransLink to help end strike

BURNABY About two-dozen HandyDart users gathered at TransLink's Metrotown offices in Burnaby Thursday to express their frustration with a transit strike that has left many stranded in their own homes.

Bet Tuason, a HandyDart rider who is in a wheelchair, was among those who waited in the lobby while a dozen riders met with TransLink to urge them to intervene and use binding arbitration to end the strike.

Tuason said the strike has been tough on him. He hasn't been able to meet with the people he mentors, nor has he been able to go to his exercises or rehab.

"It's almost like I'm confined in the house," said Tuason. "Life is sort of turned upside down."

TransLink spokesman Ken Hardie said the transportation authority would cajole both parties to get them bargaining, but could not force them to enter binding arbitration.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Former city councillor Tim Louis leads a protest for HandyDart riders at TransLink's Metrotown offices in Burnaby on Thursday.

Campuses to observe shooting anniversary

MASSACRE Sunday marks the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

On campuses around Metro Vancouver, faculty and students — many of whom weren't born when Marc Lépine shot and killed 14 female engineering students at Ecole Polytechnique — will remember his victims and all abused women.

Hiromi Matsui, a researcher and advocate for women in science and engineering, is helping organize a memorial ceremony at Simon Fraser University at 1:30 p.m.

Participants will be planting 14 dogwood trees for a living memorial and unveiling a bench with the victims' names.

"This is the 20th anniversary (of the shootings)," said Matsui. "I thought it was important to develop something permanent.

"This is an important part of Canadian social history. We have people here who graduated from Ecole Polytechnique."

Matsui said there's a real sense of kinship among engineering students, which is why many Montreal Massacre memorials are organized by or held in engineering departments.

A memorial service for the victims of the shooting was held at the University of B.C. yesterday.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

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392

Suzuki to be honoured in Sweden

Vancouver environmentalist David Suzuki will be given the 2009 Right Livelihood Award — also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize — at a ceremony in Stockholm on Friday. The award recognizes people whose careers are devoted to improving the planet and its inhabitants. METRO VANCOUVER

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'Opportunities are endless'

So You Think You Can Dance auditions set for this weekend

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Vancouver dancers hoping to follow in the footsteps of So You Think You Can Dance Canada champions Nico Archambault and Tara-Jean Popowich will have their chance to wow the show's judges on Saturday.

Hollywood North is the third stop on the audition tour for the show's third season.

Choreographer and guest judge Blake McGrath will be at the Centre In Vancouver For Performing Arts along with American judge Mary Murphy, Canadian judge Jean Marc Genereux and host Leah Miller.

"(Dancers) are getting stronger every season," McGrath told Metro Vancouver from Toronto, where auditions have already been held.

"The contestants know there's more at stake now and the competition is harder. The choreographers are getting stronger and everyone is stepping up their game."

McGrath said judges are looking for star quality and something that makes dancers stand out from the rest, balanced with technique.

Competitors should avoid singing along to the music and giving a half-hearted performance, which he said is a waste of the judge's time.

"The opportunities (for the top 20) are endless, it opens so many doors," he said.

Audition info

- The Vancouver auditions start at 9 a.m. and are open for B.C. contestants between 19 and 30 years of age.
- The tour will still be making stops in Calgary and an East Coast city, with dates and venues to be announced.

Nico Tara-Jean

City invests in storage space for the homeless

PARTNERSHIP The City of Vancouver is spending $42,000 to run a storage facility for six months so the homeless have a place to keep their belongings while they use shelters and attend doctor's appointments.

The initiative is a partnership with the First United Church. The facility opened Oct. 20 at 320 E. Hastings St. and has the capacity to store 30 carts and 150 totes. Staff and volunteers from First United are there 10 hours daily to help.

"We know from the success of our shelters that having a place to store belongings is key to helping people get off the street," said Mayor Gregor Robertson.

An Aug. 4 coroner's report into the death of a homeless woman said Dawn Bergman turned down police offers of help because she was reluctant to risk losing the cart that carried her belongings. She died Dec. 18, 2008.

The report recommends that during winter months the City of Vancouver establish programs where homeless people can secure their carts and personal effects.

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Industry poll finds most want restaurant food HST-free
Sixty-four per cent of British Columbians think food in restaurants should be exempt from the HST, according to a survey by the B.C. restaurant and foodservice industry. METRO VANCOUVER

Motorcyclists plan rally at courthouse

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

A group of motorcyclists is planning a rally outside the Surrey courthouse where on Dec. 8 an RCMP officer is facing obstruction of justice charges associated with the death of a motorcycle rider.

The protest is being planned through the Facebook group Crown vs. Robinson, and members accuse the Mountie of "getting away" with his role in the death of 21-year-old Orion Hutchinson.

Cpl. Benjamin Monty Robinson is also one of the four officers involved in the Robert Dziekanski Tasering at Vancouver's airport.

He was off duty when a vehicle collided with a motorcycle in October 2008 in Delta, killing Hutchinson. Delta police recommended charging Robinson with impaired driving, but Robinson claimed the alcohol in his blood was ingested after the accident.

He said he left the scene to drop off his two children and then had two drinks before returning.

The B.C. Coalition of Motorcyclists (BCCM) is also concerned about the case.

"Had it been anyone else than an RCMP officer, charges would have been laid within weeks, and they wouldn't have been lesser," said executive director Adele Tompkins.

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RCMP seize large cache of weapons

BURNABY Fifteen high-powered rifles and handguns were among the items seized by Mounties executing a search warrant in Burnaby that resulted in the largest cache of weapons the team has ever seized, the RCMP said on Thursday.

Bulletproof vests, ammunition and $10,000 cash were also found by the Burnaby RCMP Strike Force Team when they searched the home in the 4800 block of Brentwood Drive on Nov. 20.

Sgt. Andy LeClair said two men have been arrested. "We are extremely pleased with this seizure. There is no doubt in my mind had these weapons not been taken off the street they would have been used for sinister criminal purposes."

The investigation into the origin of the weapons is ongoing. METRO VANCOUVER

Allegations lead to investigation of bus driver

ON LEAVE A Vancouver bus driver is being investigated after an allegation that the transit operator smelled of alcohol, Coast Mountain Bus Company said on Thursday.

Police met with the driver on Nov. 25 and used an "approved screening device" to test the driver but found there was no violation of the Motor Vehicle Act, which allows for a blood alcohol level of .08 per cent.

Police did not make an arrest or recommend charges.

Coast Mountain said in a release the driver is on administrative leave and an investigation is ongoing. The company said it's taking the matter seriously but did not release any more details. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

ESCAPE Police are seeking two young men who disappeared from a youth detention centre in Burnaby. The teenagers, 16 and 18, escaped from the Burnaby Youth Open Custody Centre on Dec. 2, and may have stolen a car to get away.

FIRST NATIONS The B.C. government is promoting a record high school completion rate of 49 per cent for aboriginal students in the Class of 2009 — two per cent higher than the previous year. A First Nations group says that's nothing to be proud of. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Canada Post wroker arrested over stolen passport applications

Authorities say a Canada Post employee was arrested after 75 filled-out passport applications collected by Human Resources Minister Diane Finley's office were allegedly stolen. Police say a 28-year-old man from the Gatineau area in Quebec was arrested Nov. 6 and police are awaiting approval from the prosecutor's office before laying a theft charge. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Globalive ban to end?

Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement says cabinet could overturn a decision by the CRTC that prevents cellphone company Globalive from launching its service in Canada.Ottawa is reviewing the decision by the federal regulator, which says Globalive wasn't Canadian-owned and controlled and therefore can't serve the Canadian wireless market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chinese premier gives Harper public scolding

China threw diplomacy aside Thursday and rebuked Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Harper was publicly chided at a traditional Chinese welcoming ceremony for taking too long to visit China.

With television cameras rolling in Beijing, Harper's Chinese counterpart, Wen Jiabao, noted that no Canadian prime minister had visited China in five years.

He also reminded Harper Chinese media were full of stories about the lack of attention paid to China by his government.

"Five years is too long a time," Wen said.

An hour earlier, President Hu Jintao twice emphasized this was Harper's first visit.

However, the prime minister did not let the comments slip by without a response.

He pointed out it had also been five years since the Chinese leadership had stepped foot in Canada.

Harper said: "More regular visits would seem to make sense."

In Ottawa, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said the government's handling of China was "amateur hour on the world stage."

"This is the most important relationship for the economic future of the country," Ignatieff said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MPs vote for torture apology

TORTURE In a surprise vote, a majority in the House of Commons says the government must apologize for the torture ordeals of three Muslim-Canadian men detained in Mid-East jails and overhaul the country's national security review regime.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa In the Commons, silence is golden

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of Parliament and House of Commons staff bow their heads during a moment of silence on Thursday to commemorate Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

How the Far North has changed

NUNAVUT A group in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, has noticed that climate change has altered its native food sources.

The conversation is the focus of one of two Canadian documentaries being presented this week in Copenhagen showcasing the effects of climate change on indigenous populations around the globe.

World leaders meet in Copenhagen next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Southern Death Threat

Southern Death Threat was formed in early 2005 by guitarist\songwriter Brennan Eyles. Eyles came up with the name of the group on his way to a New York Yankees baseball game in Seattle. "I was watching CNN and the US was engaging in conflicts with North Korea, and Iraq. With all the nuclear ambitions and the US being bully's it made sense." says Eyles. After auditioning numerous musicians and singers, Eyles found his match with the current lineup. New lead singer Nick Oszinski has a powerful voice. Drummer Scotty McCargar (Bif Naked) beats the skins and is considered one of the best. Bass player Howard 'howie hammer' Humenick completes this aggressive 4 piece. With an explosive live show SDT gives fans a reason to rock out. *Bottom line: Southern Death Threat is a force to be reckoned with!*
Have a listen!
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Clement optimistic about GM

Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement doesn't expect the resignation of General Motors CEO Fritz Henderson to affect GM's operations here. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec City **Laughter's aflame for the torch**

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Odette Tremblay of Quebec City celebrates with students and officials as she carries the Vancouver 2010 Olympic torch to the Manoir Montmorency in Quebec City on Thursday.

A full house ... of cash

Cash is king in Ottawa.

Federal and provincial housing ministers beginning two days of meetings Thursday in Ottawa are in the extraordinary position of having so much money they don't know what to do with it.

The federal government is in the midst of handing out an unprecedented $5-billion pot of federal money for social housing needs and construction.

Some provinces are also earmarking substantial sums toward housing.

For the first time in four years, the federal minister in charge of housing was to meet face to face with her provincial counterparts on Friday, in the hopes of hashing out the most effective way to spend it all.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley said she'll ask a pair of fundamental questions.

"Are we doing the right thing with it, and are we doing it the right way?" Finley said.

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Brazilian charged with faking skinhead attack to appear in court

A Swiss court ordered Paula Oliveira, charged with faking an attack by skinheads that garnered country-wide coverage, to appear in court Dec. 16. The Brazilian woman is accused of deception of Justice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

"We must talk to the Taliban as an Afghan necessity."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who said Thursday he's willing to talk with Taliban chief Mullah Omarin a bid to bring peace to the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denmark prepares itself

Police beef up security ahead of UN climate talks

In Denmark's biggest security operation since World War II, police mobilize 11 thousands officers and a water cannon for the U.N. climate summit.

Copenhagen police demonstrated the German-made 22-ton vehicle to media Thursday, showcasing it mainly as a beefed-up fire truck that could spray water on burning cars or trash bins if protests get out of hand. But police spokesman Michael Engell said it was possible to add tear gas to the 6,000-litre water tank, implying the cannon could also be aimed at rioting protesters.

At least 100 world leaders will converge on the city in the next two weeks to try to forge a new pact against global warming.

Roughly 15,000 delegates have signed up for the conference and many more protesters are expected to march through the streets. Most demonstrations are expected to be peaceful, urging world leaders to craft an ambitious climate agreement.

Copenhagen police operations chief Per Larsen said: "We will act accordingly if something unacceptable happens."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go Green

m.metronews.ca

Barack Obama's troop surge plan is similar to the Soviets' disastrous endgame, but can the U.S. actually pull it off? Scan this barcode for the full analysis.

India **Salvaging what's left**

ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A young boy looks for recyclable material at a garbage dump on the outskirts of Gauhati, India, on Thursday. India will slow the growth of its climate-warming emissions over the next decade, Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said Thursday.

News in brief

LONDON Britain's climate change secretary urged countries to be wary of "climate saboteurs" seeking to wreck a global agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaked global warming data sparks investigation

ENGLAND A British University said Thursday it would investigate whether scientists at its prestigious Climatic Research Unit fudged data on global warming.

Thousands of pieces of correspondence between the world's leading climate scientists were stolen from The University of East Anglia and leaked to the Internet last month.

Skeptics of global warming say it's proof scientists have been conspiring to hide evidence showing that global warming is not as strong as believed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman struck and dragged nearly a mile to her death
A woman driving an old limousine ran over another woman after an apparent dispute over drugs and dragged her for nearly a mile through Skid Row in Los Angeles early Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuns offer $204M over abuse

A major Irish order of Roman Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Mercy, offered Thursday to pay child abuse victims, the government and charities a further $128 million to compensate for decades of abuse in its schools and orphanages.

The compensation offer to the Irish Education Department is by far the largest from 18 orders of Catholic priests, brothers and nuns found guilty of chronic child abuse. They ran scores of residential schools, workhouses and orphanages for generations of Ireland's most deprived children from the mid-19th century to the 1990s.

14,000 More than 14,000 abuse claimants worldwide want payments for their experiences as child residents of Catholic schools and orphanages in Ireland.

The Sisters of Mercy said in a statement it "wholeheartedly regrets the suffering experienced by the children in their care" and hoped this latest offer would show that its nuns were being "faithful to the values of reparation, reconciliation, healing and responsibility."

A nine-year state investigation ruled in May that all the orders permitted and covered up rape, molestation, beatings and mental cruelty in their institutions. The government demanded that the orders pay much more to help cover compensation payments to more than 14,000 abuse claimants worldwide topping $1 billion.

Several other Catholic orders have already made smaller offers to the government and victims' support groups following the May report. Its findings of epic levels of cruelty and neglect fanned public fury against the Catholic orders, which in 2001 cut a controversial deal with the government that capped the church's total contribution to the future compensation bill at $127.5 million — virtually the same as the amount offered by the Sisters of Mercy alone.

The order said its new offer would involve $20 million in cash to a new fund for supporting abuse victims and their families, and donations of properties valued at $108 million.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cat cam reveals what felines get up to when they're home alone

LOS ANGELES What do cats do when their owners are away? There was one way to find out: "Cat cams."

Fifty house cats were given collar cameras that took a photo every 15 minutes. The results put a dent in some human theories about catnapping. Based on the photos, about 22 per cent of the cats' time was spent looking out windows, 12 per cent was used to interact with other pets and eight per cent was spent climbing on chairs.

Just six per cent of their hours were spent sleeping, six per cent spent hiding under tables, five per cent playing with toys, and four per cent eating.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo bans niqab in dorms

When Egypt's government banned Islamic veils and all-encompassing robes in the dorms of public universities, it cited reports of men wearing the garb to sneak into the women's quarters.

But there was a deeper reason behind the move: An intensifying struggle between the moderate Islam championed by the state and a populace that is turning to a stricter version of the faith, whose most visible hallmark is the niqab: The dress that covers the entire female.

The moves have angered many women who say they cover up voluntarily out of religious conviction, and in some cases are penalized for it.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAHMOUD KHALED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A female student (foreground) wears the niqab.

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Comment

Will billboards speak for anyone?

UrbanCompass

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/sullivan

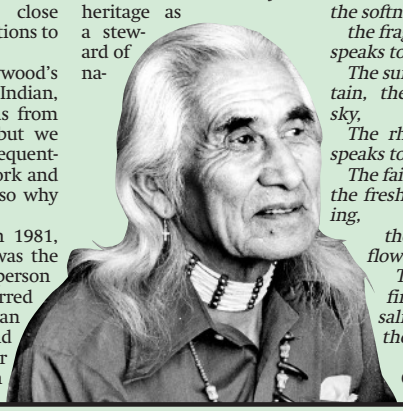
As I wait in gridlock traffic to get on the Lion's Gate Bridge every morning, I watch the Squamish Nation busily bulldoze tall poplar trees to mount those electronic billboards that look like monitors from space, I wonder what Chief Dan George would think.

Remember Chief Dan George? He was the hereditary chief of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, close neighbours and relations to the Squamish.

He was also Hollywood's favourite American Indian, even though he was from Hollywood North, but we live in a town that frequently fills in for New York and L.A. in the movies, so why not?

Before he died in 1981, Chief Dan George was the coolest aboriginal person in the world. He starred with Dustin Hoffman in Little Big Man and was nominated for an Oscar. He even had his own "Canadian in Hollywood" postage stamp.

He also took seriously his heritage as a steward of nature, and wrote this beautiful poem:



The beauty of the trees,
the softness of the air,
the fragrance of the grass
speaks to me.
The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky,
The rhythm of the sea, speaks to me.
The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning,
the dewdrop on the flower, speaks to me.
The strength of the fire, the taste of salmon, the trail of the sun,
and the life that never goes away, they speak to me
And my heart soars.

Chief Dan George

Read it over as many times as you like; there's nothing in there about electronic billboards that are three metres high and nine metres wide.

These billboards may, as Chief Gibby Jacob of the Squamish Nation says, be just the ticket for bringing in new revenue for the Squamish people, needed to support "vital social and educational programs and services for its community," but they sure are ugly, and contrary to the spirit of Dan George, who was a wise elder to us all.

Let me make this clear: As a desecration of North Vancouver's magnificent natural assets, the billboards don't rival Jimmy Pattison's garish oceanfront auto mall, but they're in the same spirit of a fast buck at all costs and that's not what Dan George was all about. That's why we all — aboriginal and immigrant — admired him.

I miss Dan George. I miss the poplar trees at the foot of the Lions Gate Bridge. My heart thuds.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Views

Why Copenhagen summit is a big deal

Martin Atkin
WWF International

You're going to be hearing and reading a lot about Copenhagen in the next couple weeks. Every day you open your newspaper or switch on the television news it's going to be up there in the main headlines. So why is Copenhagen such a big deal?

It's a big deal because it affects all of us. Climate change isn't just something that happens to other people. Those melting glaciers and raging forest fires may seem a long way from where you're sitting reading this on a bus or train on the way to work, but they're happening on somebody's doorstep. Maybe you're lucky enough not to be directly affected — yet. But you will be.

Over the next two weeks, Metro will be featuring some of the creatures around the world already suffering because of global warming. Some of them may be familiar — polar bears struggling on the melting Arctic sea ice, or delicate coral reefs killed off by warmer oceans. But there's one species that stands to lose more than most if climate change isn't brought under control — humans.

"But there's one species that stands to lose more than most if climate change isn't brought under control — humans."

We're already seeing the terrible consequences of runaway global warming. Many thousands of climate refugees forced to flee their low-lying coastal homes from India to the Pacific islands. Bush fires causing millions of dollars of damage every year from Australia to California. Hurricanes of increasing severity and frequency battering cities from New Orleans to Taiwan.

Climate change could wreck the global economy. It destabilizes food, water and energy supplies, and makes it more difficult for us to pull out of recession. That's a direct threat to our jobs, homes and security. And all the time the cost of doing nothing is going up — a cost that has to be borne by all of us.

That's why Copenhagen matters to us all. The great and the good meeting over the next fortnight have the power to lead us into a clean, sustainable future or into ever-more catastrophic global warming. Big deal? You bet it is!

Martin Atkin is the director of media relations for World Wildlife Fund International.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Teck Resources slapped with large fine
Teck Resources has been fined $115,000 after a chemical spill in the Columbia River in southeast B.C. in May 2008. It's the largest fine in B.C. history for a single count under the province's environmental management act, according to Environment Minister Barry Penner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Comcast plans to buy NBC

Comcast Corp. announced Thursday it plans to buy a majority stake in NBC Universal for $13.75 billion US, giving America's largest cable TV operator control of the Peacock network, an array of cable channels and a major movie studio.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movies and TV shows, such as Jay Leno seen in this promotional NBC poster in New York, could come more quickly to cable.

Although the deal could mean that movies could reach cable more quickly after showing in theatres, and that TV shows could appear faster on cellphones and other devices, it was already raising concerns that Comcast would wield too much power over entertainment.

If the deal clears regulatory and other hurdles, Comcast would rival The Walt Disney Co. — which Comcast CEO Brian Roberts already tried to buy.

Comcast, which already serves a quarter of all U.S. households that pay for TV, would gain control of the NBC broadcast network, the Spanish-language Telemundo and about two dozen cable channels, including USA, Syfy and The Weather Channel.

It also would have regional sports networks, Universal Pictures and theme parks.

In agreeing to buy 51 per cent of NBC Universal from General Electric Co., which has controlled NBC since 1986, Comcast hopes to succeed in marrying distribution and content in a way Time Warner Inc. could not.

AOL and Time Warner are undoing their ill-fated marriage Dec. 9.

Comcast pledged that NBC Universal shows that now cost money over its cable video-on-demand service would be free for three years.

But consumer advocates worry about the deal, saying people could end up paying more for TV.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Gold prices lead an upswing after a roller-coaster year for the Canadian mining industry. Scan this barcode for the full story.

WestJet foresees impact on Q4

REVENUE WestJet Airlines Ltd. expects the ongoing transition to a new reservation system will have a negative impact on its fourth-quarter passenger revenue, which is expected to be at least 11 per cent below last year.

The Calgary-based airline made the statement Thursday while releasing November traffic results, which showed a load factor down slightly from record highs last year as growth in capacity outpaced growth in traffic.

The new reservation system had affected the airline's levels of service with implementation issues dragging on longer than expected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

REAL ESTATE Residential real estate sales should recover in almost all major Canadian cities by the end of 2009, while average prices should post new records in an improved economic climate, according to a new housing report. The Re/Max Housing Market Outlook survey for 2010 predicts the uptick in sales will be lead by an anticipated 45 per cent increase in Greater Vancouver.

BANK CIBC reported Thursday that profits were up 48 per cent in the fourth quarter, but its chief executive has warned that higher loan losses are likely to continue into the new year as the Canadian jobs market remains weak. The bank reported net income of $644 million for the quarter ended October 31. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Shanahan takes job with NHL

Brendan Shanahan didn't stay retired for long. The three-time Stanley Cup champion was named the NHL's vice-president of hockey and business development Thursday, less than three weeks after ending his 22-year playing career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Mauresmo retiring

Two-time Grand Slam champion Amelie Mauresmo retired from tennis Thursday, saying she no longer had a burning desire for competition. The 30-year-old Frenchwoman, a former top-ranked player who finished the season at No. 21, said she doesn't have the will to keep playing at the highest level. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Luongo backstops a gem

NHL RESULTS

Canucks 3 Flyers 0

VS

Roberto Luongo kept the Philadelphia Flyers' offence in a funk.

Luongo made 38 saves and defenceman Willie Mitchell broke a scoreless tie and the Vancouver Canucks topped the struggling Flyers 3-0 on Thursday night.

"It was one of those nights where you feel like the puck is just hitting you," said Luongo, who stopped 15 shots in the third period. "I didn't even see some of them and they ended up hitting me in the arm."

MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia's Ian Laperriere can't get a shot past Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo as Vancouver's Alexander Edler, looks on in the second period of last night's game in Philadelphia.

Mitchell scored at 13:38 of the second period when he picked up a loose puck in front of the Philadelphia net and scooped a backhand over the shoulder of Flyers goaltender Brian Boucher, who finished with 26 saves.

It was the third goal of the season and first in 22 games for Mitchell.

"I get scared when he wanders off near the other team's net," Luongo said, "but he did a great job."

The Canucks won for the fourth time in five games and picked up a second-straight convincing win to begin a four-game East Coast trip. The Canucks beat the Devils 5-2 on Wednesday night.

Alexander Burrows and Christian Ehrhoff added goals, while Henrik Sedin notched two assists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 dreams hinge on making the team

Field**of**Play

Scott Russell

metronews.ca/fieldofplay

With exactly 10 weeks to go until the home Olympics, many of Canada's athletes haven't booked their tickets to Vancouver and Whistler.

To be considered medal contenders, they have to make the team.

All over the world, trials by fire are occurring with glory hanging in the balance. Past performance means little and there's always disaster lurking to derail any Olympic dream. Just ask John Kucera, the reigning world downhill ski champion, who broke his leg in a crash at Lake Louise and thus ended his hopes of a gold medal.

"It's what we sign up for," shrugged Francois Bourque, Kucera's teammate who had witnessed the fall. Bourque himself missed all of last season due to injury. In 2006 at the Torino Games, he finished a narrow fourth in the giant slalom. This time he's guaranteed nothing.

"It's part of the game. It's what we live with," Bourque reckoned.

"Past performance means little and there's always disaster lurking to derail any Olympic dream."

In curling, the finest teams in the land are assembling in Edmonton to conduct a super tournament from which only two will emerge. The fact that Kevin Martin and Jennifer Jones have dominated the sport for the last four years is irrelevant. So is the Olympic silver medal Martin won in 2002. Becoming the Canadian representative in Vancouver will be the toughest task of all.

At the World Cup of speedskating in Calgary, the powerhouse nations will dash in an Olympic preview. Canada has many stars in the mix.

But in the men's 500M sprints the most successful racer of all-time, Jeremy Wotherspoon, hasn't qualified. He'll be hard pressed to make amends for his stumble at the start line in Salt Lake City and it will have to be at another distance.

In Europe, Canadian bobsled athletes like Heather Moyse of PEI still don't know if they've got a seat in the sled — this in spite of the fact that Moyse missed a podium spot in Torino as the brakeman by hundredths of a second.

Moyse told a community fundraiser in Charlottetown recently that as an aspiring team member, she takes nothing for granted.

"People call me an Olympian," she explained. "I say I'm just like everyone else. I'm just somebody's neighbour with a job to do."

Indeed, for Moyse and all the others, the most difficult mission may be making the Olympic cut in the first place.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Sports in brief

WOODS A lawyer for a New York woman who has denied having an affair with Tiger Woods cancelled a news conference that had been scheduled for Thursday in Los Angeles. Lawyer Gloria Allred's office said in a statement that the news conference was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

NHL Looking to the future, the surging Chicago Blackhawks signed three of their top players — Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith — to lucrative contract extensions Thursday. Kane and Toews, both 21, signed five-year deals worth $31.5 million US each. Keith, a defenceman, got a 13-year contract worth $72 million.

NHL The Toronto Maple Leafs traded AHL forward Jiri Tlusty to the Carolina Hurricanes for prospect Philippe Paradis on Thursday. The deal between the NHL's bottom two teams is an exchange of first-round draft picks — Tlusty was taken 13th overall in 2006 while Paradis was selected 27th last June.

BASEBALL Placido Polanco returned to the Philadelphia Phillies Thursday, agreeing to an $18-million US, three-year contract. The 34-year-old free agent won Gold Gloves at second base for the Detroit Tigers in 2007 and this year, but will shift to third base, which hasn't been his primary position since 2002. He replaces Pedro Feliz, who became a free agent.

NFL Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney returned to practice Thursday and cornerback Kelvin Hayden worked out for the second straight day, meaning both could play Sunday against Tennessee. Freeney missed last week's game with an abdominal injury. Hayden has missed four straight games with a knee injury. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ali makes rare appearance
Muhammad Ali made a rare public appearance when he attended the opening of a newly expanded Phoenix institute that treats Parkinson's disease. Officials at the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center said Thursday the facility is now the most comprehensive in the nation for the treatment of the brain disorder. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scandal no stranger to world of sports

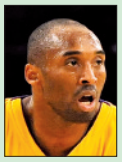
PERRY LEFKO
for Metro Canada

Tiger Woods is not the first high-profile athlete whose image and, potentially career, has taken a beating because of scandal, sexual or otherwise.

There are many superstars whose fame turned to infamy because of an incident.

Here's a look at some other examples of athletes, active and retired, who fit into the category of good guys gone bad or, in the care of one, Mike Tyson, bad to worse:

KOBE BRYANT: He had good looks, great game and star status playing in the basketball mecca of Los Angeles.


Kobe Bryant

It took a sexual scandal to rock Bryant's world. In the summer of 2003, the Lakers star found himself accused of rape by a hotel employee in Colorado.

A year after the announcement of the original charges, the prosecutors dropped the case. Bryant settled a civil suit out of court.

Ultimately, Bryant admitted to a tryst in a public pronouncement, accompanied by his wife.

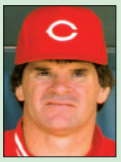
MIKE TYSON: He was a street thug who packed a powerful punch. He turned pro in 1985 and became the first to claim the heavyweight titles from the World Boxing Council, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation at the same time.

Mike Tyson

Tyson's rise to greatness plunged when he lost his title to mega-underdog James (Buster) Douglas in 1990. That became overshadowed by a charge of sexual assault levied against him in July of 1991 by the reigning Miss Black Rhode Island, who accused him of rape.

Tyson was convicted, given a 10-year sentence and released after three years.

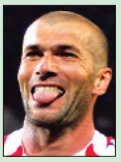
PETE ROSE: Known as Charlie Hustle during his career as one of the best baseball players of the '70s, Rose was accused in 1989 of betting on baseball while managing the Cincinnati Reds.


Pete Rose

Rose denied the charges, but was ultimately banished from the game.

He eventually confessed to betting on games but never against the Reds.

ZINEDINE ZIDANE: It took one dramatic incident for Zidane, one of only two three-time Players of the Year of the Federal Internationale de Football Association, to have his image altered, though not ruined.


Zinedine Zidane

Playing for his native France in the final of the 2006 World Cup Final against Italy, Zidane head-butted Marco Materazzi in extra time because of verbal taunting and insults. Italy won in a shootout.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Edmonton 4 Detroit 1
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Buffalo 6 Montreal 2
Dallas 3 Anaheim 1
N.Y. Islanders 4 Atlanta 1
Pittsburgh 4 Colorado 1
Washington 6 Florida 2
Phoenix 2 Calgary 1
Ottawa at Los Angeles
St. Louis at San Jose

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 90 San Antonio 83
Houston at Golden State
Miami at Denver
Utah at Phoenix

NFL Jets beat Bills in Toronto

DEAN DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo Bill Lee Evans makes a catch and is tackled by New York Jet Lito Sheppard during the first quarter of an NFL Football game at the Rogers Centre in Toronto on Thursday. Mark Sanchez threw a TD pass to Braylon Edwards before leaving in the third quarter with a knee injury as the Jets captured an entertaining 19-13 win over the Bills.

Tiger shows downside of hero worship

Tiger Woods was different, or so he seemed, with his unmatchable talent and carefully burnished image. Unlike some pro athletes, he had welcomed being a role model. He was, it turns out, too good to be true, and his fall from grace calls into question the very idea of sports hero worship.

"No one has approached this level of perfection on and off the playing surface, maybe ever, without a single blot or tarnish," said Dave Czesniuk, director of operations for Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

"The real story here is the meeting of expectations with reality," Czesniuk said. "The guy's a human being and we forget that."

Woods' apology Wednesday for unspecified "transgressions" — coinciding with reports of marital infidelity — was only the latest in a long sequence of superstar downfalls.

Michael Phelps was photographed with a marijuana pipe. Marion Jones had her Olympic medals stripped for doping that she long denied. Roger Clemens and Alex Rodriguez faced dual allegations of steroid use and adultery. And so on.

Woods, however, was unique — a globally recognized brand name that evoked impeccability and historical greatness. His sponsors and handlers, the media, and especially Woods himself contributed to the image-making.

"The public had become jaded and indifferent — they expected Barry Bonds and Marion Jones and Sammy Sosa to fall," said psychologist Stanley Teitelbaum, author of Sports Heroes, Fallen Idols.

"But no one really expected that of Tiger Woods," he said. "Now that it happens to him, people are not as indifferent — there's more disappointment and more disillusionment."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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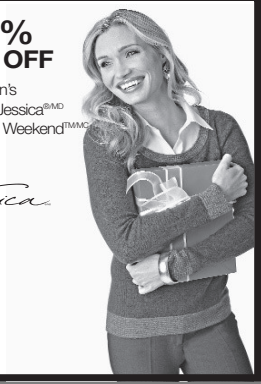

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Gimme a kiss! Pg 18

Disney's first-ever African American princess hit screens across the country this weekend with The Princess and the Frog.

Movies Pg 18

Brothers is quiet, earnest and never goes the easy route.

Music Pg 28

Sophie Millman tells the story of her life through her music.

Television Pg 26

Toronto actress leads the cast in new Alice adventure.

NEW

Climate challenge – the safety's off

The world is getting warmer, and it's very likely that this is the product of human emissions of greenhouse gases. That is the conclusion of the UN's climate panel. But when does man's impact on the climate become dangerous? Is the UN track the right one? Is carbon capture and storage a solution or just a smokescreen? Is the threat to the climate an opportunity for companies? *How do different scientists view the matter? Read this book to find out!*

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At a glance
Brothers ●●●, Everybody's Fine ●●●, The Private Lives of Pippa Lee ●●●●, Red Cliff ●●●

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Fairy tale adds colour

Anika Rose voices Disney's first African-American princess

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Lending her voice to Disney's first African-American princess is pretty huge for an actress, and Anika Noni Rose is all too aware of it.

"The first time I saw her in colour, I couldn't even breathe. I just started to cry," she says, hand instinctively going to her throat. "Even talking about now, I'm such a wuss."

To be fair, it really is a big deal. Tiana, the heroine at the center of The Princess and the Frog, joins a much-celebrated class of characters including Cinderella, Snow White and Belle from Beauty and The Beast. And while Disney has featured other races with Jasmine from Aladdin or Mulan — and even other another species in The Little Mermaid — until now there hasn't been a black face in that lineup.

Movie feature

But as a child watching Disney films, Rose doesn't necessarily remember noticing the absence of lead characters of colour. "I didn't necessarily feel deprived. I was just watching the movies and loving them," she says. "I do remember wondering to myself if there would ever be a Chocolate Brown after seeing Snow White.

The Princess and The Frog hits theatres next week

"It will mean different things to different people," Rose says of the impact Tiana will have. "For my nephew, it will be the norm. He will think nothing of it. It will be his first princess, period. For my mother, it'll be something she's been waiting for — and her child, no less. For my grandmother, it will be something she never thought would've happened."

As for Rose herself, she says she's just thrilled to be involved in one of Disney's lavish animated musicals. "This is something that I always dreamed of doing," she says. "I didn't dream of being a princess. I could've been a dandelion and I would've been really happy."

An admitted "Disney geek," Rose was just as excited the film's return to traditional hand-drawn animation as she was about its cultural significance. "When you look at the bayou, you can see the humidity in the air," she says. "It is hazy and warm and moist and thick with it. And I that's something that CGI hasn't quite managed to capture."

And while the first African-American Disney princess is sure to be viewed as a role model of sorts, Rose is more than happy to dodge that label herself — one of the benefits of voicing an animated character. "If they want to see Tiana as a role model, I think that's brilliant because her story is finite," Rose explains. "She's not going to turn the corner and fall out and have 20 children. It's not going to be the type of situation."

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Anika Noni Rose lends her voice to Disney's first ever African-American princess in The Princess and The Frog.

Natalie Portman and Tobey Maguire star in Brothers.

Brothers understated drama

Brothers
Director: Jim Sheridan
Stars: Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Brothers should be an overly sentimental drama that gratingly begs for Oscar recognition. After all, it is a story of forbidden love and post-traumatic stress disorder, populated by a cast of young Hollywood stars. The film should have a "movie of the week" quality with glossy production values.

But surprisingly Brothers is a very quiet and earnest little film that never goes the easy route emotionally. It might not be a masterpiece, but director Jim Sheridan has turned in a better movie than Brothers had any right to be.

The film stars Tobey Maguire and Jake Gyllenhaal as (you guessed it!) two very different brothers. Maguire appears as an honoured army captain and Gyllenhaal plays his fresh out of prison ne'er do well brother.

When Maguire is captured in Afghanistan, his family is told he's dead and Gyllenhaal steps in to take care of his shattered family, befriending his daughters and possibly getting a little too close to his wife (Natalie Portman).

Maguire eventually returns a changed man after his horrific experience and his family can hardly recognize him. This path has been tread before, but Jim Sheridan makes it work by perfectly casting his actors against type to defy expectations, while also keeping the family drama slow and simmering.

There are few Oscar-clip ready emotional outbursts, but when they do appear the scenes at least feel organic to the piece.

Brothers is a remake of the Danish drama Brødre and Sheridan manages to Americanize the story with minimal Hollywood gloss.

Maguire is shockingly good as a shell shocked POW and Gyllenhaal is surprisingly believable as a damaged ex-con. Sheridan is clearly playing with their movie star images here and the experiment works quite well.

The final scenes might veer too far into sentimentality, but overall this is an awards season drama that manages to delicately explore touchy subject matter

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Good greed

Hollywood filmmaker Oliver Stone is again taking on the financial world in a sequel to 1987's successful Wall Street, but this time he said greed is not only good — it's legal.

Stone just finished filming Wall Street 2 and dropped a few hints while talking to a class at American University this week that focuses on his work.

The movie again stars Michael Douglas as corporate raider Gordon Gekko, a character who preached "greed is good" and earned Douglas an Academy Award in 1988. But this time Gekko takes a back seat to what Stone said are today's financial power players.

"The individual Gekko would no longer exist in this new Wall Street," Stone told The Associated Press, referring to the boom before the recent financial meltdown. "The big players now are major banks and hedge funds . . . the money's too big."

In the new film, he said, "greed is now legal."

The Federal Reserve Bank has a role, and Donald Trump has a cameo appearance. The film also touches on current politics.

The movie, due out next year, is a complicated but familiar story with greed and envy as central themes, Stone told students in the Oliver Stone's America course, which also focuses on how popular historical consciousness is shaped.

"Wall Street can be the engine of capitalism" and create opportunity, Stone said to one student. "But they increasingly have not done that because there's more money in speculation."

Stone, 63, said he made the first Wall Street for his father, who was a stock broker, and as a symbol of an era of excess that only grew after the 1980s. Millionaires became billionaires in the decades that followed and the U.S. government provided a staggering bailout this year after everything crashed, Stone said.

"I don't think it's healthy," he said, "and I don't think I'm the only one." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macca lends song, and he feels Fine

There are only so many songwriting suggestions an outsider is allowed to offer Paul McCartney. Kirk Jones, director of the new Robert DeNiro movie, Everybody's Fine, found the limit.

McCartney, who has written only a handful of songs specifically for films, contributed the emotional ballad (I Want to) Come Home for the story about a widower learning about his grown children after the former Beatle saw an advance screening of the movie.

When Jones had some editing suggestions, McCartney listened. He added an instrumental intro to the song and switched the first and third verses, things he'd been considering anyway. Then Jones suggested a change in the lyrics. Gulp. This was one of popular music's most storied songwriters, after all.

"I remember going over in the cab (to meet McCartney) and saying the only way I could do justice to him and the film was to be honest," Jones said. "I don't want to be above the process," McCartney said. "I don't want to be one of those people who says, 'How dare you play with my music! My music is sacred!' I wrote for a movie. I might as well hear what the director has to say. But when he did go a comment too far, I did shut the door."

Jones had almost lost McCartney earlier. As McCartney sat in the screening room and the movie reached the emotional climax where he knew that any song he wrote would appear, he heard the placeholder Jones had also considered: Aretha Franklin singing the Beatles classic Let it Be. No pressure there.

"I go, 'I can't do this!'" McCartney said. "'Are you kidding me? I can't do that.' My immediate reaction was, 'No way, dude.'" But after seeing the movie, an idea came to him the next night.

"I thought, 'I like the film so much I'll see if it works,"' he recalled. "Gradually, from there, I tried to use (Let it Be) as an inspiration for a new, different kind of song, but hopefully in the same emotional ballpark." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Piper on film
Persistent Entertainment is planning on turning comic The Piper into a film, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The movie will concern a bullied high school band student who channels the spirit of the Pied Piper. EW.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

For Efron, life's a stage

Teen fave tries meatier role in Me and Orson Welles

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Movie feature

Zac Efron can't seem to shake his High School Musical pedigree — but he's trying.

His first feature outside the franchise, last spring's delightful 17 Again, opened with the young star on the basketball court, brow furrowed just like his Disney trilogy counterpart. And in his latest, Me and Orson Welles, Efron — still paying a high-schooler — wheedles his way into Orson Welles' 1937 production of Julius Caesar by showing off his singing chops.

Luckily, that's about where the similarities end. Efron's character in his new film is set for a much more mature coming-of-age experience, thrusting him into a love triangle with Welles (Christian McKay) and a comely older woman (Claire Danes). But it was the intense backstage world of theater that attracted Efron.

"Essentially what my character does in the movie is everything I did in five years, only he did it in one week and was much cooler," Efron explains. "When you're doing a play, in my experience, there's so much going on and there's so much pressure and such teamwork and such camaraderie, you almost gain this whole other family," he says.

"You can become very wrapped up in your emotions in that. I think I fell in love during every play I did from 12 to 17."

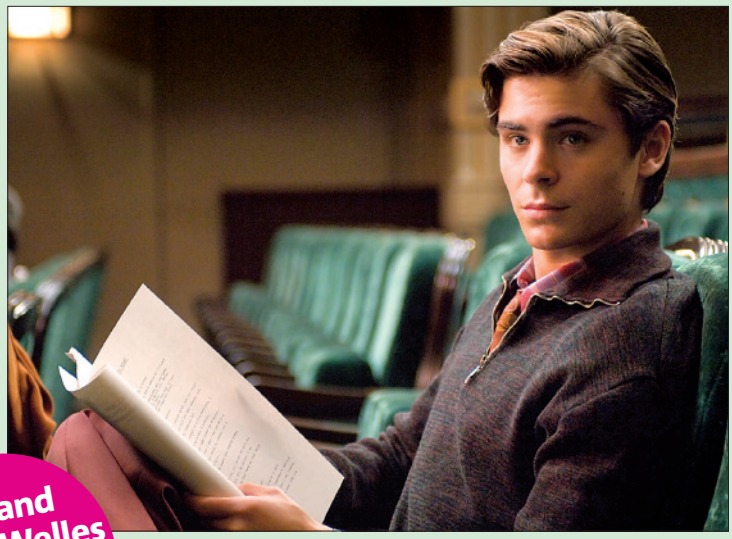
Linklater, who had only seen Efron in Hairspray, admits that he didn't initially think the young actor would work for the part.

"Frankly, my first impression was that he's almost too good looking," Linklater says. "But in my experience, you can't judge the full range of an actor based on what you've seen them in, so we set up a meeting. A minute or two into the conversation, I knew he would be perfect."

The show-within-a-show aspect of Me and Orson Welles offered Efron the opportunity to expand his experience with Shakespeare, something he didn't necessarily think he needed to do going into it, he admits.

"I found out I didn't know the first thing about Shakespeare," he says.

"I thought I was coming to the table with a decent amount of knowledge — perhaps someone would even ask me a question or two. But I quickly found out that was not the case and I had a lot to learn."



Heartthrob Zac Efron shows off his acting chops in Me and Orson Welles.

Me and Orson Welles opens next Friday

"Frankly, my first impression was that he's almost too good looking. But in my experience, you can't judge the full range of an actor based on what you've seen them in."
Richard Linklater

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WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS JOHN TRAVOLTA ROBIN WILLIAMS "OLD DOGS" A TAPESTRY FILMS PRODUCTION A WALT BECKER FILM KELLY PRESTON SETH GREEN ELLA BLEU TRAVOLTA LORI LOUGHLIN AND MATT DILLON MUSIC SUPERVISOR DAVE JORDAN MUSIC BY JOHN DEBNEY COSTUME DESIGNER JOSEPH G. AULISI EDITORS TOM LEWIS RYAN FOLSEY PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAVID GROPMAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JEFFREY L. KIMBALL, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GARRETT GRANT PRODUCED BY ANDREW PANAY ROBERT L. LEVY PETER ABRAMS WRITTEN BY DAVID DIAMOND & DAVID WEISSMAN DIRECTED BY WALT BECKER
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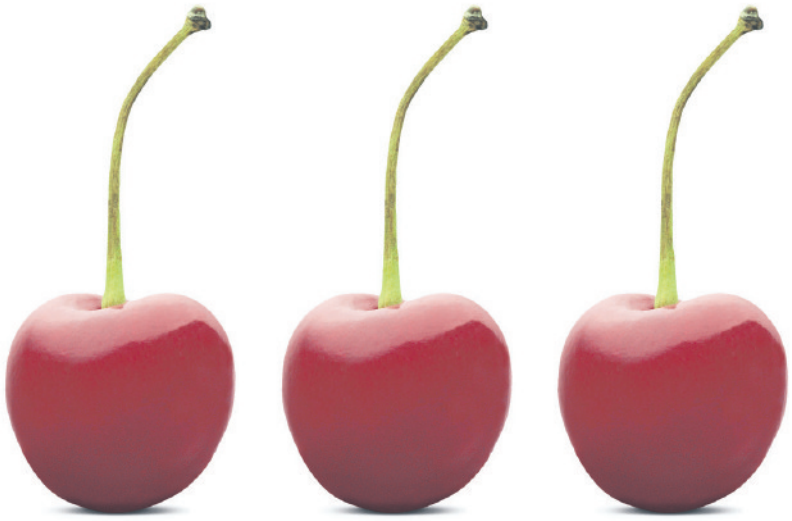

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Anderson working on The Master

There Will Be Blood director Paul Thomas Anderson is settling on his next project. The new movie, which has the rough working title of The Master, stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as a charismatic man who dreams up an idea for a faith-based organization. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

DeNiro in Fine form

Everybody's **Fine**

Director: Kirk Jones
Stars: Robert DeNiro, Drew Barrymore
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Robert DeNiro and Drew Barrymore play father and daughter in Everybody's Fine.

Just as every holiday season brings a flurry of kid-friendly fare to the box office, so too is it often associated with heart-tugging dramas for the more adult patrons. Enter one of this year's entries, Everybody's Fine.

In this slow-paced Kirk Jones (Nanny McPhee) dramedy, Robert DeNiro plays Frank, a recent retiree whose sedate life is punctuated by the fact the outgoing message on his antiquated answering machine is still his late wife's voice.

When his children (played by Drew Barrymore, Sam Rockwell and Kate Beckinsale) all skip out on a family get-together, Frank decides to travel cross-country to surprise them each in their respective cities.

What we get is a sexagenarian road trip of discovery, or lack there of, since Frank finds his kids each hiding secrets — especially the worrying absence of their sibling, David.

The film's true intent is already established. By playing down blatant sentimentality and casting DeNiro (who's simply arresting), the movie satisfyingly explores the regret and secrets that exist in every family.

Mainly though, this film will be remembered for the restrained performance of DeNiro.

Clipped Red Cliff keeps John Woo's best bits

Red **Cliff**

Director: John Woo
Stars: Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Takeshi Kaneshiro
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Action specialist John Woo hasn't made a film since the appropriately titled Paycheck temporarily ended his career in Hollywood six years ago.

Fortunately, the master of slo-mo violence has returned with Red Cliff, an $80-million Chinese production that out-grossed Titanic in its native country. The massive movie was presented as a two-part five-hour epic in Asia, but has been cut in half for North America. Inevitably the slice and dice editing has harmed the pacing, but it still plays far better than half a movie should.

The film is based on The Battle of Red Cliffs from 208 AD, the culminative battle in Prime Minister Cao Cao's attempt to unite his country through the brute force. Through careful strategy and ingenuity, rebel forces were able to defeat a massive army.

It's a strong story perfect for Woo's patented blend of sentimentalism and action spectacle. The North American edition of Red Cliff unsurprisingly plays like a Coles Notes version of the events, featuring only the necessary plot points and massive battle scenes. The characters might not have room to breath, but the story survives the truncation and the action scenes rank amongst the director's best.

Also, the shortened running time of this film seems to have cut out most of Woo's irritating indulgences in favor of straightforward storytelling. The pacing in the first half of the film might feel a little wonky, but overall Woo does the story justice.

Matt Dillon's dream come true

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Matt Dillon gets to play both sides of the law in Armored.

Armored opens in theatres today

Matt Dillon has worked with an array of accomplished directors that includes everyone from Francis Ford Coppola to Gus Van Sant to Cameron Crowe. But there's one filmmaker that I bet you'd never have guessed might be on the actor's dream list: Nimród Antal.

Nimród who?

"He's a force — that's the first thing that comes to mind," said Dillon recently of the little-known Hungarian who helmed the 2003 subway-themed festival hit Kontroll. "I thought that Kontroll was just an unbelievable, exuberant film really. It's just inspired and so I was predisposed to work with him."

Now with Armored hitting theatres today, audiences will get to witness the collaboration between Dillon and the director he aspired to work with. While its impossible to predict the partnership will pay off, the thriller does show promise as Dillon plays the chief of an armoured car crew that plans an elaborate caper to rob the very treasure he's supposed to be guarding.

"It's funny because it seems like an amped up thing — these guys set out to pull off this $42 million dollar heist and you might think, 'oh, that's a little far-fetched' but it's really not," insisted Dillon. "While we were in pre-production, the director came up to me and said, 'hey, check out this (newspaper) article' and it was an article in which there had just been an inside job armored car heist … so there is a kind of basis in reality."

Once Dillon realized one of the criminals had even been named Dylan (close call!), the coincidence only assured the cast their film was on the right track.

Another indication they were in good territory — the casting of Dillon as a peace officer. After all, although the 45-year-old actor is often typecast in that role, it certainly paid off with an Oscar nomination in Paul Haggis' 2004 drama Crash.

"I'm either playing a cop or I'm on the other side of the law," laughed Dillon, suggesting that he at least gets to play both in Armored.

"I think that's the way it goes with action movies — you've always got to raise the stakes a little bit and that's what's going on here."

Everett's advice
Rupert Everett is advising young actors to stay in the closet if they want a good career. "The fact is that you could not be, and still cannot be, a 25-year-old homosexual" trying to make it in film business, the 50-year-old told The Guardian. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Up In The Air mines times

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Wise-cracking superstar George Clooney might have one of the most famous faces on the planet right now, but he certainly remembers a time when things weren't quite so good.

"You've got to remember that I have 12 or so years of really bad television under my belt," Clooney joked to Metro. "I saved up some really bad years and I remember them very well. There will be more of them in the coming years as well."

The reason the typically jovial actor is reminiscing about his not so pleasant days is because of his role in the new film Up In The Air, in which he plays a man who fires people for a living. It's a business that in the midst of an economic recession is booming.

The dark comedy/drama written and directed by Jason Reitman (of Juno and Thank You for Smoking fame) is a movie that feels very much of the moment. However, according to Clooney, the project was started just before the current economic crisis and ended up being much more culturally relevant than anyone expected.

"When I first read the script it was just before the big crash," revealed Clooney. "As we were working on the film it became less and less of a comedy and much more about real people and real things.

"Suddenly it felt more timely than ever before and we ended up in the exact right moment to be making this film. I think we were lucky to make a movie that's sort of important to talk about."

Up in the Air opens in theatres next week

George Clooney stars in Up In the Air, directed by Canadian Jason Reitman.

With its intelligent script and a talented cast, Up in the Air would have been a successful film at any time. But its particularly timely themes will inevitably help it connect deeply with audiences. When asked if he had been hurt by the recession yet,

Clooney quipped "Yes, I fired six of my drivers. Because you know. at some point eight or nine is fine. I also put one of my planes on eBay and sold that. So yeah, I've had to downscale considerably since the crisis."

Up in the Air is the type of movie that has become a specialty for George Clooney. It's an oddball and clever little project that only made it off the ground because the actor attached his marquee name to the title.

Since achieving worldwide fame, Clooney has admirably used his status to make films that he believes in and hopes to be able to continue to do so in the future.

"It's hard to find the right kind of films, but I've been lucky enough to continue along this path. I try to make interesting movies within a limited budget because I don't just want to make blockbuster tentpoles."

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Wright Penn touches greatness in Pippa Lee

The Private Lives of Pippa Lee

Director: Rebecca Miller
Stars: Robin Wright Penn, Keanu Reeves
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

REVIEW The perpetually overlooked Robin Wright Penn touches greatness in Rebecca Miller's domestic drama The Private Lives of Pippa Lee. Wright plays our heroine, whose story we follow in all its joy and pain over several decades, a kind of episodic Forrest Gump Lite.

Wright Penn is note perfect, authentic, and natural with a face that is translucently, nakedly expressive; it's as though we are looking too closely at her.

She can't hide much. This is Wright's best work yet, and that's saying something.

The action starts at Pippa's birth. She comes out covered in fur. Her mother (Bello) runs the halls of the hospital screaming "I had a monkey!" and never moves beyond that, regarding her daughter with a mix of pathetic, misguided love and hate. The fur goes but the resentment remains.

Flash-forward 25 years and Pippa's living in a retirement community with her big shot publisher husband (Arkin) who is living on borrowed time after three heart attacks.

Her neat, tidy, and false world begins to crack when visions of her dead mother appears.

"Wright Penn is note perfect, authentic, and natural with a face that is translucently, nakedly expressive."

She's given a chance at redemption when a neighbour's son comes to hide out in he community. Truths are told, many are ignored, affairs are revealed, begun and ended; suicide and death hovers, and dashed loyalties give way to new beginnings. Lifetimes are jammed into 93 minutes and there's nary a dull moment, thanks to Miller's supple direction.

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 4 TO THURS., DEC. 10. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Adrenaline Rush: The Science of Risk (STC) Fri-Thu 3 Sat 7:30
Beavers (STC) A.M. Fri-Thu 11
Journey to Mecca in the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat
The Light Before Christmas (STC) Fri 1 Sat-Sun 1-5 Mon-Thu 1
Van Gogh: Brush With Genius (STC) Fri 7:30

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Brothers (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-4:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

An Education (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:10-9:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Fri-Thu 2-4-6-8-9:55
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-3:45-4:15-7-7:30-9:30-9:50
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:20-10

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Coopers' Camera (STC) Fri-Sun 9:40 Mon-Thu 8:40
Eating Buccaneers (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:55-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
An Education (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10
Grease (STC) Fri 7
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 5:40
The Private Lives of Pippa Lee (14A) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:45-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:15
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri 6:55-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:55-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:25
Zombieland (18A) Fri 9:35 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:35

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

(500) Days of Summer (PG) Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Adam (PG) Sun 3:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15
Banff Mountain Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sat

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

2012 (PG) DTS Digital Fri 8:30 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4:45-8:30 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-8:30
The Blind Side (PG) DTS Digital Fri 7:15-10:15 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-7:15-10:15 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

12th Annual European Union Film Festival (STC) Fri-Wed 7
The Sweet and the Bitter (STC) Thu 7:30

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Coco Avant Chanel (French w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15
Invictus (PG) A.M. Sun 10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

The Nutcracker Ballet (STC) A.M. Sat 10
The Road (14A) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Brazil (STC) Fri
Brothers (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Monty Python's Life of Brian (STC) Fri 12

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:50-10:30 Fri 12:45-4:15-8 Sat 4:15-8 Sun-Wed 12:45-4:15-8 Thu 1:15-4:30-8
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:50-7:15-9:45
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri 1:20-4-6:45-9:30 Sat 4-6:45-9:30 Sun-Wed 1:20-4-6:45-9:30 Thu 1:20-3:40-9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:35
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Mon 1:10-4:20-10:40 Tue 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:20-9:50 Fri-Tue 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:20-3:30-7:30-10:40 Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7-10:10

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799

Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:15-5:35-7:50-10
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:15-9:55
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:10-10:05 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-10:05
Brothers (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20
Everybody's Fine (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:10-1:05-2:20-3:20-4:30-5:40-6:50-8-9:10-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:10-1:05-2:20-3:20-4:30-5:40-8-9:10-10:15
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-5-7:40-10:25
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1:50-3:30-4:50-6:15-7:30-8:50-10:10
Red Cliff (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:25-6:40-9:50
The Road (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:9:40

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Collapse (STC) Fri 8:15 Sun 6:30 Tue-Thu 8:15
Found Footage Film Festival (STC) Mon 7:30
Punching the Clown (STC) Fri 6:30 Sun 4:45-8:15 Tue-Thu 6:30

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313

Pirate Radio (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:40-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Armored (PG) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-7:20-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:35
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:45
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Fri 7:30-9:55 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:55
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Fri 7-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

2012 (PG) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 2-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 6:30-10
Brothers (PG) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:20-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3-6:50-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 10
Planet 51 (G) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

2012 (PG) Fri 4:25-7:45 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:25-7:45 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:45
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 4:15-7:10-9:40 Sat 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:40 Sun 1:25-4:15-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:10
Old Dogs (G) Fri 4:10-7:15-9:35 Sat 1:15-4:10-7:15-9:35 Sun 1:15-4:10-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:15
Planet 51 (G) Fri 4:05-7-9:30 Sat 1:10-4:05-7-9:30 Sun 1:10-4:05-7 Mon-Thu 4:05-7
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 4-4:20-6:55-7:20-9:50-10:10 Sat 1-1:20-4-4:20-6:55-7:20-9:50-10:10 Sun 1-1:20-4-4:20-6:55-7:20 Mon-Thu 4-4:20-6:55-7:20

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

2012 (PG) Fri 11:35-2-3:10-6:15-6:45-10:05-10:35 Sat 2-3:10-6:15-6:45-10:05-10:35 Sun-Thu 11:35-2-3:10-6:15-6:45-10:05-10:35
Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:25-9:55
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (14A) Fri-Thu 11:55-3:25-6:55-10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:50-6:30-10
Brothers (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:25-7:40-10:25 Thu 3:25-7:40-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7:15-10:30
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Wed 12:05-3:20-7:15-10:15 Thu 3:20-7:15-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-3:35-6:40-9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12-1-3-3:55-7:05-7:50-10:10-10:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7-10
Paa (STC) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:45-7:20-10:40
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-6:50-9:45
Red Cliff (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-3:05-7:10-10:40
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:35-10:40
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:30-10:45 Fri-Thu 11:40-2:55-7-10:15

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Planet 51 (G) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

2012 (PG) Fri-Mon 11:30-3:10-6:40-10:15 Tue 3:25-6:50-10:15 Wed-Thu 11:30-3:10-6:40-10:15
Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-5-7:40-10:20
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:20-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:35-2-4:30-7-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:15-7:15-10:25
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:50
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-3-6:30-9:45 Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:30-10:30

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri 4:15-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sat 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun 1:20-4:20-7:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri 4-7:10 Sat 1-4-7:10 Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri-Sat 7:15-10:15 Sun-Thu 7:15

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:35-3:15-4:05-7:05-8-10:35
Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:50-6:50-10:25
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-7:15-10:40
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:20
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:30-7:20-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-5-7:30-10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:45-7:50-10:30 Wed 3:45-7:50-10:30 Thu 12:40-3:45-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:55-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Wed 4:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Thu 11:55-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri 1:15-4:15-7:10-10:45 Sat 4:15-7:10-10:45 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-10:45
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 11:40-3:10-6:45-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-1:10-3:55-4:20-7:7:35-9:55-10:30
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:50
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:35-2-4:25-6:55-9:35
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-10:05
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:15-7:45-10:45
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7:10-7:40-10:15-10:45 Fri-Thu 12-3-6:40-9:45

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Astro Boy (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Whip It (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Astro Boy (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri 2:30-6:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-2:30-6:15 Mon-Thu 2:30-6:15
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Thu 8:20
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 7:55
Paranormal Activity (STC) Fri-Thu 9:45
Planet 51 (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
Where the Wild Things Are (G) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:25-6:45-10:10
Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:20-9:45
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:05-10:15
Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:15-10:05
De Dana Dan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:15-7:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-5-7:30-9:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:05-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:25 No Passes Wed 4:50-7:10-9:25 No Passes Thu 12:05-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Heer Ranjha (STC) Fri-Thu 4:10
Kurbaan (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-7:35
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:55-9:30
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:40
Paa (STC) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:50-10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-4-7-9:55 Wed 4-7-9:55 Thu 12:50-4-7-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

2012 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-5-9
Armored (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10
The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:05-4:15-7:15-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:05-4:15-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:05-4:15-7:15-10:15
Brothers (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50
A Christmas Carol (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:20-9:55
De Dana Dan (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 4:05-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:05-7:45
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:30
Old Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:05-9:25
Planet 51 (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:10
Popieluszko: Freedom Is Within Us (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15-6:30-9:45
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:40-7-9:40-10

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criteriontheatres.com

The Blind Side (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:25 No Passes Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Fri 7:15-9 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:10-7:15-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-9

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criteriontheatres.com

2012 (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 2:10-8 Mon-Thu 8
Brothers (PG) Fri 7:15-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:35
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri 7-7:30-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 2-2:30-7-7:30-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-7:30-9:40

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

2012 (PG) Fri-Sun 12-12:55-3:35-5-7-9:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:35-5-7-9:15-10:30
Armored (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7:40-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:15-7:40-10:10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:15
Brothers (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:10 Mon-Tue 4-7:20-10:10 Wed 7:20-10:10 Thu 4-7:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri 12:40-4:10-7:20-10:25 Sat 4:10-7:20-10:25 Sun 12:40-4:10-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:25
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:05-5:30-8-10:25 Mon-Thu 5-7:30-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:50-6:55-9:50 Mon-Tue 3:50-6:55-9:50 Wed 6:55-9:50 Thu 3:50-6:55-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:30-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:55-7:30-10:05
Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:25-10:20
The Men Who Stare at Goats (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Turandot Encore (STC) Sat 10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:45-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:05-9:55
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:30-5:05-7:35-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:35-9:55
Pirate Radio (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:10-9:45
The Road (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:55-7:25-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:25-10:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:12:30-3-3:30-6:15-6:45-9:30-10 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:15-6:45-9:30-10 Fri-Sun 1-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-10:30

Lambert let go from show lineups

Adam Lambert's scandalous American Music Awards performance is still wreaking havoc on his schedule, as the ex-American Idol star says he's been canned from two future ABC performances, including one on New Year's Eve. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Toronto-born Caterina Scorsone beat out 500 other actresses to play the lead in the upcoming Alice in Wonderland miniseries.

Alice packs a punch in Wonderland

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

The new Alice In Wonderland isn't some blond girl getting bounced from adventure to adventure. She's a horse-riding, judo-trained twentysomething brunette who doesn't take bull from no Queen or Cheshire Cat.

"Oh god. There was a lot of running, and flying, and fighting and falling into lakes," says Caterina Scorsone, who stars in this adult reworking of the Lewis Carroll classic.

"It's probably day-for-day, the most physical thing I've been involved with."

The Toronto-born Scorsone — whose credits include TV series like Power Play, Crash, and the upcoming Mel Gibson film Edge of Darkness — isn't sure how she beat out 500 actresses for the coveted role of Alice. Truth is, she didn't even meet director Nick Willing (Tin Man) till the project was close to filming.

"I guess Nick had been turning over every rock looking for an Alice. I put something to tape and sent it into their offices. He saw it and I was flown in to meet him. Four days later I got the part. It was great that it was so quick. I didn't have time to be intimidated.

The two part Alice airs Sunday and Monday night on Showcase.

Feeling intimidated must have been hard to avoid on the B.C.-shot Alice. The miniseries features a supporting cast that includes Kathy Bates, Harry Dean Stanton, Colm Meaney and Tim Curry.

"I think what attracted all these talented people was the script. We knew going in it was fantasy sci-fi, so there would be a lot of special effects and green screen. But the actual story and characters were strong enough on the page that you wanted to do it."

Now based out of Los Angeles, the 28-year-old Scorsone frequently makes it back to Canada, where she first got her start as a kid actor on — get this — Mr. Dressup.

"That was a healthy way to start out an acting career. I'd just show up and sing and dress-up. It wasn't some dark, brooding drama," she laughs.

"Sometimes it feels like I work more in Canada than the U.S. Which is fine. Toronto is one of my favourite cities in the world."

FRIDAY 12/4/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey	CBC News: Vancouver (N)		Wheel	Rick Mercer	TBA	CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Medium (N) (CC)		The Beatles on Record (N)		News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Dollhouse "The Public Eye; The Left Hand" (N) (CC)				NUMB3RS "Old Soldiers" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Notting Hill ★★ (1999) Julia Roberts, Hugh Grant, Hugh Bonneville. (CC)				Comedy Now		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Supernanny (CC)		Ugly Betty (N) (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Metallo" (CC)		Grandma Got Run Over		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Medium (N) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Old Soldiers" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Muppets Christmas: Letters		Dateline NBC (N) (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Celebration of Disney		Ugly Betty (N) (CC)		20/20 Singer Chris Brown.		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Dollhouse "The Public Eye; The Left Hand" (N) (CC)				News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	26 NW	Secret World of Shoplifting		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Secret World of Shoplifting		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	Skiing (Taped)		Hockey	Canucks TV	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	Hockey	SportsCentre	Off-Record	Boxing (Taped)				SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh (2008) Drake Bell. (CC)				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird	Sorry	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	A Scanner Darkly ★★★ (2006) (CC)		
	268	354	5 KNO	Battlefield Mysteries (CC)		Poirot (CC)		New Tricks (CC)		Amandla! Revolution in 4-Part Harmony		
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Fan Access	Taylor Swift: One on One		Taylor Swift	Cowboys Cheerleaders		Fan Access	Taylor Swift: One on One	
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Happily Ever	Happily Ever	Dress	Dress	Happily Ever	Happily Ever	Dress	Dress	Dress
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny	Kenny	Law & Order: UK "Vice"		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	47 TBS	Dan in Real Life ★★★ (2007) Steve Carell, Dane Cook.				Four Weddings and a Funeral ★★★ (1994) Hugh Grant. (CC)				
	603	561	69 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
	-	-	98 AMC	(:15) National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ★★ (1989) Chevy Chase.				Ghostbusters II ★★ (1989) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd. (CC)				
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:20) The House Bunny (CC)		Wendy and Lucy ★★★ (2008) Premiere.		Transporter 3 ★★ (2008) Jason Statham.				RocknRolla
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills	The City	MTV Live	Cribs (CC)	Catching Up: Teen Mom		The Hills	The City	Hills-City

SATURDAY 12/5/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at San Jose Sharks. (Live) (CC)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	Shrek/Halls	Corner Gas	Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning (2008, Drama) Shirley MacLaine. (CC) (DVS)						News
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	Jane Show	Project Runway Canada		Mistaken (2008) Lana Parrilla, James Thomas. (CC)				News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Whistler "Last Run"		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	My RONA Home		Glenn Martin	Out There	Thralls (2005, Horror) Siri Baruc, Leah Cairns. (CC) (DVS)				Amazing
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smash Cuts	Smash Cuts	The Hills	The Hills	CSI: NY "Oedipus Hex"		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	Medium "Then... and Again"		CSI: NY "Help" (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Paid Program	Inside Edition	Parks	The Incredibles ★★★ (2004, Adventure) Voices of Craig T. Nelson. (CC)					KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	College Football: Big 12 Championship			NASCAR	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Northern Exposure (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	26 NW	Wal-Mart Nation (CC)		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Wal-Mart Nation (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Black in America "Tomorrow's Leaders"				Newsroom		Black, Amer.
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	High School Football B.C. Championship. (Live)					UFC: Access	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Ult. Fighter
	400	400	30 TSN	Basketball	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Boxing Mikkel Kessler vs. Andre Ward. (Taped)				SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) Blizzard ★★ (2003)		Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Sorry	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Jack Frost ★★ (1998) Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston. (CC)				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "Days of Misrule" An explosion. (N)				On, Mountain
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	The Christmas Shoes (2002, Drama) Rob Lowe, Kimberly Williams.					The Christmas Shoes (2002) Rob Lowe, Kimberly Williams.			
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	On the Case, Paula Zahn		Kidnapped for 18 Years		On the Case, Paula Zahn		On the Case, Paula Zahn		48 Hours
	616	522	39 SHO	The Guard (CC)		The Christmas Choir (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick. (CC)				The Invasion ★★ (2007) Nicole Kidman.		
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Dan in Real Life (2007)		Bewitched ★★ (2005) Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell.				The Holiday ★★ (2006) Cameron Diaz.		
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef All Stars Dinner		The F Word (CC)		Dear Food Network (CC)		Chopped (CC)		Top Chef
	-	-	98 AMC	White C'mas	(:45) White Christmas ★★★ (1954, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye. (CC)						The War Wagon ★★★	
	320	621	60 CEN	(5:55) 21 ★★ (2008) (CC)		Defiance ★★ (2008) Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber. Premiere. (CC)					(:20) Pride and Glory ★★	
	581	566	101 MTV	MTV Live	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY 12/6/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland "Broken Arrow"		Happy Feet ★★★ (2006) Voices of Elijah Wood. (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		News
	250	321	9 CTV	Cold Case "Forensics" (N)		The Amazing Race 15 (CC)		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Flashpoint (CC)		News
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer Dad	(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News Final
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)		The Italian Job ★★★ (2003) Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron. (CC)					Comedy Now	New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC)		Extreme Makeover: Home		My RONA Home		Conviction Kitchen		Amazing
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami "Throwing Heat"		CSI: NY "Open and Shut"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 15 (CC)		Cold Case "Forensics" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	NFL Football: Vikings at Cardinals			The Jim Mora	Dateline NBC (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Brothers	'Til Death	Cleveland	Simpsons	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	26 NW	An Inconvenient Truth				CBC News: The National		An Inconvenient Truth		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Black in America "Today's Pioneers"				State of the Union		Black
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	WHL Hockey		The Ultimate Fighter				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Vikings at Cardinals			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Canada's Sports Hall		Fort Strong	SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Dog Saved Christmas		SpongeBob	Family Biz (N)	Smallville "Bulletproof"		Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Bromwell	Rick & Steve	John
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Touch of Frost (CC)		Touch of Frost (CC)		New Tricks (CC)		Beautiful
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Tuckerville	Tuckerville	Funniest Home Videos		Wilsons	Wilsons	Cheer Moms
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds "Penelope"		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds "Lucky"		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Chainsaw Ice Sculptors (N)		Crazy Christmas Lights		Invasion of Cmas Lights		Chainsaw Ice Sculptors		Cmas Lights
	616	522	39 SHO	Cra$h & Burn "Freedom"		Alice (2009) (Part 1 of 2) Caterina Scorsone. Premiere. (CC)				Weeds (N)	Found.	Kenny
	294	650	47 TBS	Dan in Real Life ★★★ (2007) Steve Carell, Dane Cook.				Something's Gotta Give ★★★ (2003) Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton. (CC)				
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Get on Plate	Food	Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	98 AMC	The Prisoner "Schizoid; Checkmate" (CC)				The Prisoner "Schizoid; Checkmate" (CC)				Green Ml
	320	621	60 CEN	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor ★★ (2008)				Dexter		Fanboys ★★ (2008) Sam Huntington. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays	Over Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays

Barbara Walters star hit list

Barbara Walters thinks this year's roster of fascinating people is a little edgier, more current and less obvious than usual.

Of course, the fact that she's compiling a new list is no surprise. Airing Dec. 9 on ABC, Barbara Walters Presents: The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2009 is her 17th edition.

But the choices this time, she says, "are hopefully more adventurous," in contrast to last year's, which (boasting the likes of Michael Phelps, Tom Cruise, Tina Fey, Barack Obama) seemed to come together naturally.

This year's choices were made later than usual, adds Walters — in just the past few weeks.

All but one (whose name is under wraps until the program airs) have been announced. And most of them Walters (who knows nearly everyone) admits she had never met before.

Here's Lady Gaga, an explosive young pop star who many viewers may recognize, if at all, only for her kookie onstage outfits.

"Very intelligent, serious," Walters sums up. "She walked in for the interview in a black Chanel suit."

Here's glam rocker Adam Lambert, speaking with Walters on the heels of his racy performance at ABC's American Music Awards — and getting dropped from an appearance on the same network's Good Morning America.

Comedian-writer-entertainment mogul Tyler Perry is yet another one of Walter's fascinating people. But while wildly successful among black audiences, "most white people have never heard of him," she says.

She talks with mother of eight Kate Gosselin, who recently ended her TLC network reality series and is about to end her marriage to former co-star Jon Gosselin.

"Nobody hit the scales harder this year than Kate Gosselin," says Walters. "And this career is not over."

Also on the roster is the irrepressible, unretiring NFL quarterback Brett Favre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EVOLVING 10

1 Castles - Magenta Lane
2 Dangerous Animals - Arctic Monkeys
3 Forces of Nature - Pearl Jam
4 Hell - Tegan and Sara
5 Marching Through Your Head - Zeus
6 Glory - You Say Party! We Say Die!
7 Territory - Two Hours Traffic
8 Undisclosed Desires - Muse
9 40 Day Dream - Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros
10 Black Day in December - Said The Whale

Listen Live Saturdays @ 10 am

California choppers set to churn up the TV pavement next fall
Sons of Anarchy fans left hanging after Tuesday's climatic Season 2 finale can rest easy — the FX drama has been renewed for a third season. The series, about a California outlaw motorcycle gang, is scheduled to return in September 2010. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

A vampire living in La-La Land

True Blood actor Alexander Skarsgård sets up shop in Hollywood

KATRINA MATSSON
Metro World News

Alexander Skarsgård has a tan. That's what happens when you're living in Los Angeles, he explains.
He is still looking for an apartment in Venice Beach, where friends from True Blood Stephen Moyer and Anna Paquin, already live.

"It is one of the few areas in Los Angeles where you can actually walk around. I'm used to my friends living only a few blocks away and meeting in local bars and I miss that," says the True Blood star.

After having played "the tall blond hunk" in enough movies in Sweden, Skarsgård moved to Hollywood where he landed roles in HBO war drama Generation Kill and vampire-based hit series True Blood.

Since the move, he has gone from unemployed to celebrity.

"There's not a single young girl that I know in Hollywood that I have not been paired with ... if I get into a taxi with a girl, suddenly we're married."
Alexander Skarsgård

And the attention is intense across in California, he said.

"You drive everywhere in L.A., so you sit protected in your little bubble of steel.

"But after season two of True Blood I noticed quite a big difference. Of course I see that stuff is written about me, but I never read fan sites and blogs. I don't think it's good for me," he said.

"If it is negative, I know that it will weigh on me or else you only read the positive stuff and your ego sort of swells up and explodes."

The rumours about Alexander's love life are rampant, and he's been linked to co-stars Evan Rachel Wood and Kate Bosworth.

"There's not a single young girl that I know in Hollywood that I have not been paired with.

"But that's what happens if I get into a taxi with a girl, suddenly we're married."

So far, he's convinced fame and fortune have not changed him.

"Nothing would hurt me more than if someone told me that I'd changed. But I do not think so. I was still over 30 when things started to happen for me in the U.S."

Alexander Skarsgård, originaly from Stockholm, Sweden, plays vampire Eric Northman in the popular HBO series True Blood.

Alexander Skarsgård on ...

- Kate Bosworth, co-star in Straw Dogs: "She is incredibly strong in this film. She really threw herself out there and took a risk. I have lot respect for her, not that many beautiful Hollywood babes would dare to. She is a super smart, cool girl."
- Lady Gaga, co-star in the music video for Paparazzi: "We only worked together for a day. It was mad. She is a bit out there, but she's also very driven."
- Evan Rachel Wood, co-star on True Blood: "She is really one of her generation's best actresses, terribly clever. I think she'll become one of the greatest of her generation."

Heather Locklear returns to Melrose Place, 17 years after starring in the original, bringing a familiar face to a new cast.

TV networks test out different show formulas

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

Some shows have it easy — one look at Joan Holloway wiggling across the office, and you're tuning into Mad Men for the rest of the season.
But what if you're one of the many spin-offs, supernatural dramas, or crime shows that debuted this fall? How do you wiggle and hook an audience? Some clever strategies are behind the frontrunners — and lacking in the others.

BE SMART WHEN SPINNING OFF When NCIS opened a Los Angeles office, the drama had an audience waiting. Not only did it follow the original on Tuesday nights, but a second show was believable.

"Clearly, there's an appetite for CSIs and Law and Orders and NCIS. These things feel organic," says Dan Manu, site director of TelevisionWithoutPity.com. "It's conceivable that there are more police stations, more cases."

As for the new Melrose Place, audiences had to make a leap with new stars and producers 17 years after the original. "They're going with the Hail Mary pass in bringing in Heather Locklear," says Manu. "But with the younger audience they're going for, how many people even know who Heather Locklear is?"

TIMING CAN MAKE OR BREAK We might have fallen for the Glee kids without slick marketing moves, but airing the pilot after American Idol didn't hurt.

"Fox did something really smart," says Mickey O'Connor, senior editor of TVGuide.com. "That audience really gets into the music."

As for ABC's The Middle, O'Connor predicts it might go down with the less successful Hank, which the half-hour comedy shares an hour timeslot with.

STICK TO THE RECIPE If you want to stand out among the hordes of supernatural shows, you better do it right. Vampire Diaries took a tried and very true path: bloodsuckers, an established book series, high school drama.

"It had a built in audience," says O'Connor. "The same thing happened with True Blood — the readers tuned in."

The long view

Just because a show makes all the right moves in Season 1 doesn't necessarily mean it will live past its infancy.
Tasha Oren, Associate Professor of English and Media Studies at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee cites Web streaming as cutting into profits, and also points out that trend-driven, teen-centric shows such as Glee and Vampire Diaries aren't even designed to stick around.

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NOV. 30 – DEC. 4 www.safetyauthority.ca

Billboard' s top albums

1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. For Your Entertainment, Adam Lambert; 4. Rated, Rihanna; 5. The Fame Monster (EP), Lady Gaga. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Furtado, k-os, pay tribute to Neale

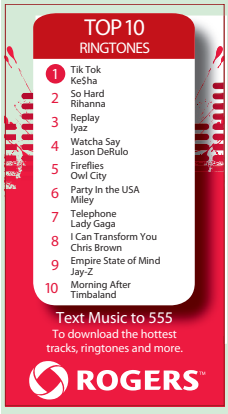
Neale

PEOPLE Victoria songstress Nelly Furtado and Toronto hip-hop artist k-os are among a star-studded group who have been announced as performers at a celebration of late Jack-soul singer Haydain Neale.

Keshia Chante, Divine Brown, Luke McMaster and Justin Nozuka are also scheduled to perform at the concert, which will be held Monday at Toronto' s Phoenix Concert Theatre.

Neale died of lung cancer on Nov. 22. He fronted Jack-soul, a Juno Award-winning soul group best known for hits including Can' t Stop and Still Believe in Love.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Milman takes it easy

Jazz singer sticks to cover songs, including one by Kermit the Frog

BRIAN TOWIE
for Metro Canada

The eclectic Sophie Milman calls jazz and Canada her two constants.

After a whirlwind tour around the world, the Toronto-via-Israel-via-Russia chanteuse is touring Canada in support of her third album, Take Love Easy, a collection of covers that include jazz, swing and contemporary classics such as Cole Porter' s Love For Sale, Bruce Springsteen' s I' m On Fire and Paul Simon' s 50 Ways To Leave Your Lover.

Expect to hear the aforementioned songs among the many subdued covers to which she' ll apply her sultry, husky vocals. It' s Milman' s modus operandi and it has worked well so far in the five years since she launched her self-titled debut. She' s sang to packed houses all over the world, including the Kennedy Center, the Hollywood Bowl and New York' s Blue Note Club. She also won a Juno Award for 2007' s Make Someone Happy after it broke into the top 5 on Billboard jazz chart.

As for scribing her own tunes? Forget it for now, says Milman. She' s perfectly comfortable applying her own style to previous works.

"My husband says I can' t rhyme," she laughs. "And that' s pretty important. I haven' t really been driven to write and I don' t want to force things. When artists force things, it reflects in their work. I like to let things play out organically. I' m not saying I wouldn' t attempt it, but I haven' t had the desire to try. And I really believe that jazz has a real art to interpretation. It' s really difficult to take well-known songs and make them convincing."

Fair enough then, she' ll stick to the covers, and one of her favourites is the much covered Bein' Green, a song originally sung by long-suffering Muppet Kermit the Frog which makes an appearance on Make Someone Happy. The song, she says, is an allegory for her life. Milman spent a great deal of her childhood in Israel as an immigrant from the Soviet Union, where she developed a passion and a talent for jazz.

Growing up as a foreigner (Jewish herself, Milman notes the Soviet Union looked somewhat disparagingly at any citizen who wasn' t of pure Russian stock), Milman felt alienated until the family moved to Canada, where she used her music to build friendships and a professional career.

"Story of my life, that song," she says. "But it all worked out in the end for me, just like it did for Kermit. I found my Rainbow Connection."

Sophie Milman' s Take Love Easy is a collection of jazz, swing and contemporary classic covers

"And I really believe that jazz has a real art to interpretation. It' s really difficult to take well-known songs and make them convincing."
Sophie Milman

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A decade that changed music

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

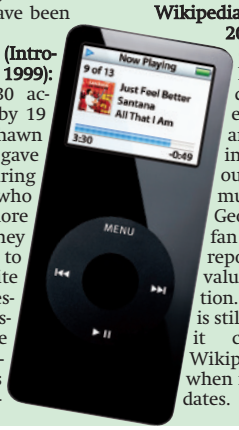
metronews.ca/soundcheck

With just 28 days to go in the first decade of the 21st century, we still haven' t figured out what to call the last ten years. The Zeros? The Noughts? I asked my grandfather for a little guidance on what they did 100 years ago, but he was born in 1910, so he apologizes for not being of much help.

Whatever the case, ' tis a time of reflection and wonder. On Dec. 4, 1999, there was no such thing as Red Bull, PVRs and the Toyota Prius. We could still visit the observation deck at the World Trade Center and shop at Pets.com. Our airline tickets were still made of paper and we were scared our computers might not cope with the switch over to 2000 and launch some nukes by mistake.

The changes in music since then have been seismic.

Napster (Introduced June 1, 1999): Offered to 30 acquaintances by 19 year-old Shawn Fanning, it gave free file-sharing to people who wanted more music than they could afford to buy. Despite their aggressive litigiousness, the recording industry has been irrevocably changed.



iTunes (January 9, 2001): While the record labels were arguing over what to do about digital downloads, Steve Jobs stepped in with an elegant a la carte 99-cent-per-track solution. iTunes is now the biggest single retailer of music in the world.

Wikipedia (January 15, 2001): Once upon a time we had to rely on quickly outdated magazines and books for information on our favourite music. Then Geocities-hosted fan sites became repositories of valuable information. Allmusic.com is still excellent, but it can' t beat Wikipedia for speed when it comes to updates.

The iPod (October 23, 2001): Unveiled in the post 9/11 fog, the original Mac-only iPod was exponentially better than any of the MP3 players that had come before it. And because they had already accepted iTunes, the record labels didn' t go to war with Apple over it.

YouTube (February 2005): MuchMusic and MTV used to be the primary sources for music videos. Today, they barely bother. Meanwhile, search for just about any song or any video on YouTube and you' ll almost certainly find it instantly. Google, YouTube' s parent (they bought it for $1.65 billion in November 2006) boasts they get a billion views a day.

My, how much can change in just a couple of years.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Allen takes a break
Lily Allen is taking a two-year break from music. The singer — who failed to renew her recording contract in September — confirmed she will indeed take a break from pop and plans to start a record label for new artists. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Mix of Six

Canyon Lights
When: Friday, 5 p.m.
Where: Capilano Suspension Bridge

Capilano Suspension Bridge's annual Christmas celebration kicks off Friday and runs until Jan. 2, except Christmas. Info: capbridge.com or 604-985-7474

Santa Claus Parade
When: Sunday, 1 p.m.
Where: West Georgia and Howe streets

The sixth annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade will be winding its way through downtown Vancouver. Kids can meet with Santa from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Robson Square ice rink. Info: rogerssantaclausparade.com .

Crafts For A Cause
When: Saturday, 6 p.m.
Where: Rhizome Café

Shop for holiday gifts made by local artisans. There will be live musical, and food and drink. Tix: Suggested donation of $2. Info: rhizomecafe.ca or 604-872-3166.

So You Think You Can Dance Canada Auditions
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts

Dancers who love the show will have the chance to bust a move for the judges. It is the third season of the popular reality TV dance show.

It's A Wonderful Life
When: Monday to Sunday until Jan. 2, 2010
Where: Arts Club Theatre's Granville Island Stage

The stage version of the classic holiday film. Tix: $25 to $30. Info: artsclub.com or 604-687-1644.

Christmas At Canada Place
When: Sunday
Where: Canada Place

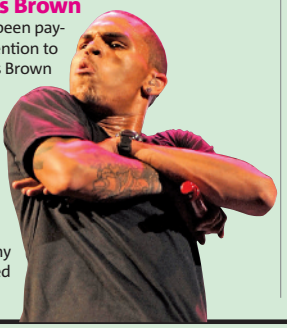
The Vancouver landmark is hosting a breakfast with Santa this Sunday as well as nightly sails light shows. Info:christmas.canadaplace.ca.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

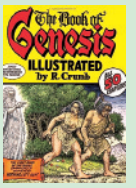
1 Brothers
FILM This remake of a 2004 Danish film has all the stuff Oscar baits are made of. Director Jim Sheridan is an Academy heavyweight with six nominations under his belt. The story about a soldier who returns from Afghanistan with deep emotional wounds has gravitas and topicality. Stars Tobey Maguire, Natalie Portman and Jake Gyllenhaal.

2 Public Enemies
DVD John Dillinger has never looked cooler on screen. Johnny Depp plays the Depression-era gangster in the Michael Mann film, which has some of the best gunfights ever committed to film — the kind in which you can feel the bullets stick. You may never want to go near a gun again.

3 Graffiti: Chris Brown
ALBUM If you've been paying too much attention to the Rihanna-Chris Brown drama, it's time you faced the music. A week after the Umbrella Girl's new album Rated R comes Brown's bid to get back the R&B crown he's so close to losing. Of particular interest is the song Famous Girl, which according to many is about — yeah, you guessed it — Rihanna.



4 The Book of Genesis Illustrated by R. Crumb
BOOK Watch out all ye faithfuls! The agent provocateur of the comic world reworks the biblical origin story through his characteristic doodles in this 214-page book. Expect plenty of below-the-belt humour and near-pornographic artwork.



5 Avatar: The Game
GAME Avatar The Film is being touted as the future of movies. And Avatar The Game is being hyped as the future of movie games. Developed by Montreal studio Ubisoft, the game is the first to use stereoscopic 3-D and works as a prequel to the film, which hits theatres Dec. 18.

6 Muppets Bohemian Rhapsody
VIDEO Much like the Muppets took Manhattan, they have taken the web. Since debuting last week, the Muppet parody of the classic music video of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody has been viewed more than 8.6 million times on YouTube. Now there's a Twitter feed and Facebook page as well.

7 Tareq and Michaele Salahi
COUPLE The most famous gatecrashers in history are also currently one of the most talked about people in North America. A Salahi reality TV show can't be far behind.

Polanski moved to undisclosed location

Authorities acted to protect Roman Polanski from public attention Thursday by moving him from a Zurich area jail to an undisclosed location before his transfer to house arrest in the Swiss Alps.

Polanski was taken from the jail in Winterthur for "security reasons and personal protection," Justice Ministry spokesman Folco Galli said.

Polanski

Galli declined to say where the 76-year-old director was being held. But he told The Associated Press that Polanski was still expected to be taken to his chalet in the luxury resort of Gstaad on Friday afternoon.

"This doesn't change anything in principle," Galli said. "He will still be transferred tomorrow."

Polanski won't be allowed to leave his house while Switzerland decides whether to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. He will have to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet.

The director of such film classics as Rosemary's Baby, Chinatown and The Pianist has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles want him returned to be sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

Polanski was initially accused of raping the girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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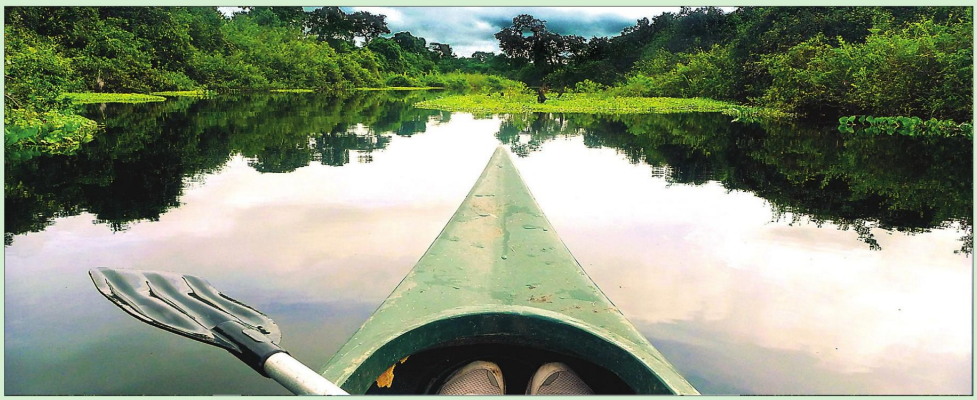
metro

High prices for threatened animals
According to the World Wildlife Fund, the highest prices on the black market are paid for the most threatened species and in these cases, it is often special orders from collectors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Go Green


METRO WORLD NEWS

Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world. Locals credit tourism for the growing understanding of their environment.

Tourism helping environment

LOTTA IMBERG
Metro World News

"Thanks to tourism people in this area understand the value in preserving the unique environment." André von Thuronyi

Feeling guilty about vacationing abroad? No more. As an eco-tourist you can actually make a difference for the environment.

"Eco-tourism can save threatened areas," says zoologist Lars-åke Janzon

In Pantanal, Brazil, the world's largest wetland, tourism has contributed to more sustainable living conditions for its birds and animals.

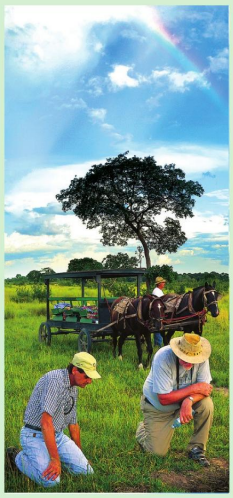
"Thanks to tourism people in this area understand the value in preserving the unique environment," says André von Thuronyi.

He runs Araras Ecolodge in northern Pantanal where he has been guiding tourists for more than 30 years. He says people's attitudes have changed during the years.

Go Green

"Before, the farmers shot jaguars and pumas to protect their livestock. Parrots that ate fruit in gardens were captured and sold, caymans were made into shoes and bags. Tourism has made a difference," he said.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Eco-tourism

- Promotes minimal impact
- Builds environmental and cultural respect
- Provides direct financial benefits for conservation.
- Provides financial empowerment and financial commitments to locals.

72 Earlier this year Brazil launched a nationwide operation against illegal hunting and trade in wildlife, in collaboration with Interpol. 72 people were arrested for having smuggled half a million wild animals a year to rich customers around the world.

Hold your own climate change talks—at the dinner table tonight.

If you're keeping a close eye on the talks in Copenhagen, you're probably the type of person who thinks about the kind of future we're creating. So why not start your own climate change talks around the dinner table tonight? About how to save energy. About how to reduce waste. And about making the choice for clean, green electricity.

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METRO WORLD NEWS

Vanessa Farquharson, a Canadian journalist, committed to living green for one year.

Committing herself to a green life

CELIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

Go Green

CHANGES Switching off her fridge, Vanessa Farquharson, a Canadian journalist, committed herself to 366 green changes for one year.

"I came up with the idea to overhaul my life in the most extreme green way possible and document what was and wasn't possible for other readers," said the author of Sleeping Naked is Green.

Can you explain the book title?

The idea is that if you aren't using pyjamas, you're creating less laundry and therefore require less detergent and water.

You did things like sell your car and gave up tampons. Are you still doing it?

I'm still keeping up about 75 per cent of my changes, but have let some things slide – I'll eat imported avocados now, for example, and blow my nose in disposable kleenex

Where did you get the inspiration?

I usually just looked around the room.

Has Kings of Leon singer found somebody he can use?
Three weeks after her split with country singer Chuck Wicks, Julianne Hough was spotted with Kings of Leon's Jared Followill at a Nashville bar. The pair cuddled at the Lipstick Lounge Tuesday night, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Are Jude and Sienna an item once again?

HE JUST CAN'T QUIT HER Jude Law and Sienna Miller have been denying they're back together, but sources say things have gotten very serious once again.

"Jude has told his ex-wife Sadie (Frost) that Sienna is back in his life," a source says, according to Hollyscoop. On top of that, Miller was spotted leaving Law's apartment just minutes after him one morning this week.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Today everyone has a different reaction to the Tiger Woods scandal: Reggie Bush goes after the other woman, Jeremy Piven doesn't want to talk about it, Jim Carrey tries some new material, and Ciara thinks the whole country has a problem..

@reggie_bush
This TRICK tryng 2 get famous off Tiger but funny thing is in a few weeks nobody will know her name! Then it's back 2 reality sweety! Lol!

@jeremypiven
Just move on, let Tiger out of the woods.

@JimCarrey
type quickly...must be 1st to say it! "Tiger... next time use a driver!" if u you didn't love that joke someone has stolen my phone.

@ciara
It seems like cheating is the new trend, and if you dont do it, it aint cool. what the hello is happening in America!!??

METRO WORLD NEWS

Portman admits to trying pot

TOKIN' ACTRESS Natalie Portman has confessed to smoking cannabis, female-first.co.uk reports. The actress tried the drug in her 20s because she missed out on the usual experimental teenage experiences because she was making movies from the age of 11.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ronnie Wood arrested for assault

OUT OF CONTROL? Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones was released on bail yesterday after being arrested for possible assault in southern England, police and his spokesman said.

Police in Surrey said a 62-year-old man from the town of Esher was arrested Wednesday night on suspicion of assault in connection with a domestic incident on Claygate High Street, south of London.

Police said he was bailed out on yesterday and he will face further inquiries in January.

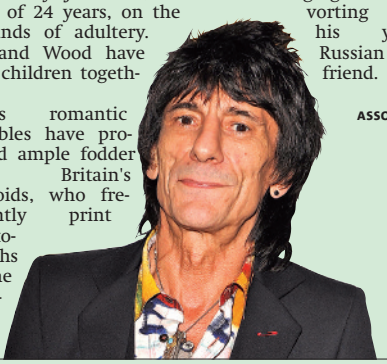
They did not release any details about the incident.

"I can confirm that there was an incident last night and that Ronnie Wood was arrested," said David Rigg, Wood's spokesman. "He has since been released on police bail."

Wood's private life has been in turmoil for more than a year since he started a relationship with Russian Ekaterina Ivanova. That led to his divorce last month by Jo Wood, his wife of 24 years, on the grounds of adultery. He and Wood have two children together.

His romantic troubles have provided ample fodder for Britain's tabloids, who frequently print photographs of the craggy, aging rocker cavorting with his young Russian girlfriend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Farrah's son cleaning up his act

HE'S GOT A GUARDIAN *ANGEL* Farrah Fawcett's son is said to be making good progress in his treatment for drug addiction, female-first.co.uk reports.

Redmond O'Neal — son of the late actress and her long-term partner Ryan O'Neal — was praised by judge Michael Tynan on Wednesday for his efforts to get clean.

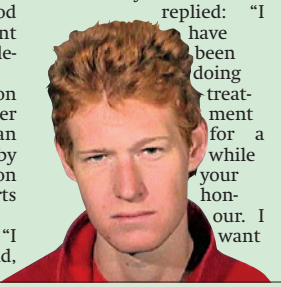
The judge told O'Neal: "I told you to turn it around, and it looks like you did."

The 24-year-old actor replied: "I have been doing treatment for a while your honour. I want to do something different. I want to stay clean."

O'Neal — who has a history of drug problems – was arrested in September 2008 along with his father after authorities found methamphetamine at the actor's Malibu home.

The aspiring actor was then arrested in April this year for taking drugs into jail.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brady mum on gender of child

WHATEVER IT IS, I WOULD LIKE TO TRADE PLACES WITH IT Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child, due this month, though only Brady knows if it's a boy or a girl.

"I wanted to find out and she didn't, so she said, 'Go ahead.' It will be a surprise for her," he tells WEEI Sports Radio. "I'm really the only one that knows at this point. My dad asked me. I haven't told him. It's a pretty good feeling knowing something that no one else knows."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Did Orlando Bloom strip down in a Vegas restaurant?

SHOWOFFS Orlando Bloom must have been inspired by his Las Vegas surroundings because he put on a little show himself while dining with girlfriend Miranda Kerr at Palazzo's restaurant, baring a bit of flesh after an unfortunate encounter with a fellow diner's cocktail.

"A drink was accidentally spilled on Bloom's shirt," a source tells Page Six. "Within 30 minutes, someone arrived with three brand-new shirts." Instead of slipping off to the restroom, Bloom made his choice at the table. "He took his stained shirt off and let everyone catch a glimpse of his body before putting on a white shirt."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Baxter's TV hubby speaks out about her revelation

FAMILY TIES The first person to laud Meredith Baxter for her decision to come out publicly as a lesbian is her TV husband, Michael Gross, people.com reports.

"She's one of my favorite people in the world, and I'm just thrilled that it's no longer a secret, and that's about the size of it," says Gross, who played the dad on the 1980s sitcom Family Ties.

Gross, 62, has known about Baxter's sexuality for four years, and he counts the actress, also 62, among his best friends.

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Saturday Sunny 3°/ -1°
Sunday Sunny 2°/ -4°
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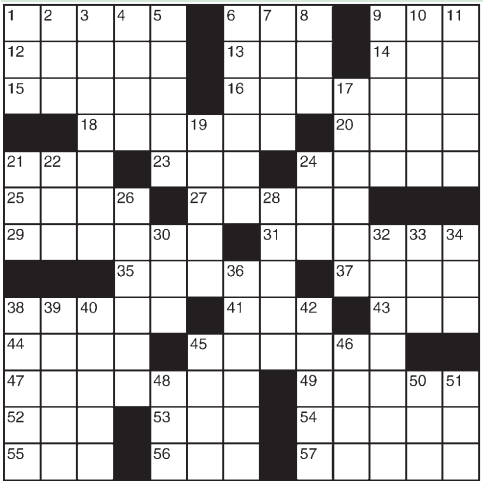
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



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Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3			1	4		2	
4								
				9	7		8	5
3		6		4		1		
			1		8			
		2		3		9		6
1	6		8	5				
								3
	9		4	7			5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

8	9	7	2	5	3	4	6	1
2	5	1	4	7	6	3	8	9
6	3	4	8	9	1	2	5	7
9	6	8	3	1	4	7	2	5
4	1	3	7	2	5	6	9	8
7	2	5	6	8	9	1	3	4
5	4	6	9	3	7	8	1	2
3	8	9	1	4	2	5	7	6
1	7	2	5	6	8	9	4	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Italian Cheese Polenta with Quick Ratatouille

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 red onion, thin wedges
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red pepper, sliced
1 zucchini, small chunks
1 eggplant, small chunks
1 chili pepper, seeded and sliced
4 cups (1 l) boiling water
7 oz (200 g) polenta
5 oz (150 g) dolcelatte cheese, cubed
14 oz (398 ml) can chopped tomatoes with basil
1/2 oz (15 g) fresh basil, torn

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large pot over medium heat and add onion, garlic, pepper, zucchini, eggplant and chili pepper. Cover; cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables begin to soften. Add salt and ground black pepper.
2. Meanwhile, put boiling water in large nonstick pot, bring to boil and add 1 tsp (5 ml) salt. Stir polenta into water with wooden spoon.
3. Lower heat and stir briskly until polenta begins to thicken and bubble slowly. Half-cover pot and cook 5 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and mix in cheese. Season with ground black pepper, then cover and set aside.
4. Stir tomatoes into ratatouille and cook until vegetables are tender. Add basil. Spoon polenta onto plates and put ratatouille on top, with garnish if using.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The best time to resolve any differences you may have with partners and colleagues is now, while Venus, planet of harmony, aspects Saturn.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Work and money matters will go well today — you won't believe how easy it is to win others round to your way of thinking.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A more relaxed attitude to life in general and to relationships in particular is a must today. A positive Venus-Saturn aspect indicates that everything will work out.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Do not allow others to take advantage of your generous nature. Believe it or not there are people out there who would rip you off.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Make the most of your social opportunities today because when Mercury changes signs you will find that your responsibilities eat into your time.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Today's Venus-Saturn link will make it easy for you to impress important people. You don't have to try too hard and you don't have to be too aggressive.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The people you have to deal with today, both socially and professionally, will respond more to charm than coercion, so don't be too harsh.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You have allowed yourself to be taken in by fears and doubts that have no basis in reality. Why that should be so is anyone's guess.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A relationship problem is not as serious as you imagine, so stop worrying about it and focus instead on the good things you have in common.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
With values planet Venus aspecting your ruler Saturn today it is essential that you get the balance of your life right.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in your chart urges you to forget the things that have gone wrong and focus on the things that are still going right.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you have fallen out with someone, either at home or at work, now is the perfect time to say "sorry."

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The Hangover	**MOVIE D**
X-Men Origin: Wolverine	**MOVIE E**
Angels & Demons	**MOVIE F**
District 9	**MOVIE G**

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Africa Dunes, Deltas & Falls
21-day Tour from $1949 taxes & fees included
HIGHLIGHTS game drives, world's highest sand dunes in the Namib Desert, bush walking in the Kalahari, wilderness camping, canoeing in the Okavango Delta, Victoria Falls and Cape Town. Departs Livingstone.

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from **$1379** + taxes & fees $325
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Dubai Air + 7 Nights from $1858 + taxes & fees $483
INCLUDES 5-star accom. ADD Dubai sand dunes 4x4 & sandboarding safari from $71.

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Air + 12 Nights from $1899 + taxes & fees $438
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Bali Air + 6 Nights + Activities from $1999 + taxes & fees $532
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USA & Canada Vacations

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from **$319**◊ + taxes & fees $103
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Hawai'i Air + 7 Nights from $699 + taxes & fees $103
INCLUDES Waikiki accom. ADD 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $35

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